UFO

a forum on extraordinary theories and phenomena
Vol. 5, No. 5 1990 $3

THE GULF BREEZE SAGA

- New Allegations
- Q&A with Ed Walters
- GIs on 'Mission From God'?

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PLUS: More 'Whistleblowers'; Investigative Reporter on UFO Beat

THE UFO PHENOMENON IN THE 1990s

A conference cosponsored by the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies and the Santa Barbara Centre for Humanistic Studies, Inc., in connection with the publication of *The UFO Encyclopedia, Volume 1: UFOs in the 1980s*, by Jerome Clark.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1990
9 A.M. – 9 P.M.

LOBERO THEATER
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

REGISTRATION FEE $40

SPEAKERS

Thomas E. Bullard, Ph.D.
Jerome Clark
George M. Eberhart
Richard F. Haines, Ph.D.
Budd Hopkins
David M. Jacobs, Ph.D.
Bruce Maccabee, Ph.D.
J. Gordon Melton, Ph.D.
Mark Rodeghier
John Saliba, Ph.D.
Don Schmitt

ABDUCTIONS and close encounters; startling revelations about official cover-ups, secret projects and suppressed UFO cases; spectacular physical-trace reports; films, videos and photographs; mass sightings of enormous flying wings; the collision of new and old theories about the phenomenon; hoaxes that shook all of ufology — the 1980s were a period of remarkable activity, confusion, controversy, and clarification. The 1990s offer the promise of more extraordinary developments — and possibly even the answers to ufology's major questions: What are UFOs? What is the significance of the phenomenon for humanity? And how much does the United States government know?

For further information, or to pre-register, write the Santa Barbara Centre for Humanistic Studies, Inc., Box 91611, Santa Barbara, California 93190-1611, or call 805/967-2669. Tickets will also be available at the door.

The UFO Encyclopedia, Volume 1: UFOs in the 1980s is the definitive account of one of the most exciting decades in the history of ufology. Over 130,000 words long, it chronicles all the important cases, theories, claims, conflicts, debates, hoaxes, personalities, publications, and organizations. Author Jerome Clark, the former editor of *Fate*, currently editor of *International UFO Reporter* and vice president of CUFOS, is a leading authority on the UFO phenomenon. Two more volumes in the *Encyclopedia* series are in preparation. *Volume 1* is now available for $65 postpaid from Omnigraphics, Inc., Penobscot Building, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

GULF BREEZE DOUBLE EXPOSED

THE "GHOST-DEMON" PHOTO CONTROVERSY

By Zan Overall

An examination of the so-called "ghost/demon" Polaroid photo taken by Ed Walters.

Was it an accidental reflection? Or was it a deliberately produced prank photo made significant by later events?

56 pages; 19 illustrations. $8.95 (plus $1.00 postage/handling). ISBN 0-929343-58-1.

Examining the Earthlight Theory: The Yakima UFO Microcosm

By Greg Long

The first scientific study of extensive UFO activity at the Yakima Indian Reservation in Washington State.

Based on 20 years of UFO reports, **color photographs** of the UFOs, and the first instrumented field observation of these orange balls of light, the book takes a hard look at the Tectonic Strain Theory that attempts to explain UFOs.

178 pages; 16 color and b/w photos; maps, drawings, tables, index. $17.95 (plus $2.00 postage/handling). ISBN 0-929343-57-3.

Order from the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, 2457 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659

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War has broken out. Make that wars. From this vantage point, it is difficult to describe the degree of turmoil which continues to drag the UFO subject to the pits of ignominy, rather than the heights of scientific integrity. It's humungous, kids, and we're at the center of the storm. Some of that turmoil fed into the creation of this issue, but we have tried our mightiest to take it as a necessary kick in the butt, to sort out the questionable things enough to bring you the best "overview" possible—on Gulf Breeze, on the government's UFO involvement, on alleged whistleblowers and (our permanent mission) on the entire panorama of UFO material.

So excuse me if my sense of humor seems lacking these days! *UFO* tried to replenish it with a visit to this year's MUFON conference, which became a showground for what may be important new trends in ufology, as well as a testing ground for Ed Walters' batch of UFO claims and, by extension, for the entire process of investigating UFO witnesses, reports and evidence. We were blessed with many good photos.

The Gulf Breeze case—our initial avoidance of it notwithstanding—has turned out to be a dominant battlefield among ufologists. At dead center is Ed Walters, his photos and the factionalism which has resulted from his unswerving insistance on the truth of his story. Let us not forget the unprecedented publicity afforded his case. It would be a damned shame if he turned out to be a hoaxer, because he really is a nice guy and a good interview.

Our denouement on Milton William Cooper as whistleblower. . . hasn't happened yet! But like any good mystery, the clues keep adding up and the plot keeps thickening, sort of like our whistleblower files. It is time for statements, though.

Then there's Howard Blum, a UFO editor's dream; that is, if he penetrates the "intelligence apparatus" enough to give us more that we can count on as breakthrough material, not diversion and disinfo. Either way, both the government and mainstream media appear to be widening the window to truth.

In reality, things UFO-wise and otherwise may not change significantly in this country, in other countries or on the entire planet for a long time, if ever. And if they do change, God willing, we can count ourselves among the generation that made it happen.

Vicki Cooper

S T A F F

Published and Edited By California UFO
Vicki Cooper
Sherie Stark

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COVER ART: Photo 2 from ***The Gulf Breeze Sightings.*** *(Portions of the uppermost sky were retouched for publication purposes.)*

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September/October 1990 Vol. 5, No. 5

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L E T T E R S

Editor:

In accordance with the instructions of my lawyer, I hereby give you formal notice that the recent article that you published in your magazine is a pack of lies, is slander, and was obviously printed for the purpose of character assassination only.

I hereby notify you that you are to print a retraction immediately in the next issue of ***UFO***. Failure to print this retraction will result in a lawsuit against you. My attorney will handle the suit on a contingency basis and so I have nothing to lose.

I advise you to take the article to your lawyer and ask him for advice and then I advise you to take his advice.

William Cooper
Camp Verde, AZ

Ed. Note: We stand by the material printed in UFO. Specific points or issues are open for debate or refutation, but a blanket retraction would be inappropriate in any case.

Editor:

Kudos to Don Ecker for his focus on Bill Cooper (Whistleblowers, Part I, Vol. 5, No. 4). It came to my attention during the summer of '89 that discrepancies marked Cooper's release of information over time. The O.H. Krill story, the EBE1 story, the changing of names and dates and other details, as well as his liberal borrowing from others' sources were disturbing tendencies in Cooper's expositories. His more recent accusations concerning John Lear, George Knapp, Robert Lazar and finally, even Ecker, seem to reveal the behavior of a man who has been caught in the act of fabrication. Truth is hard to prove, and we all have opinions as to what is true or not, but fabrication and alteration can be documented and exposed.

It is a sad commentary on the search for truth regarding UFOs and aliens that we see personalities engage in all sorts of ad hominem attacks on each other and distracting seekers from reviewing the reports and evidence on the phenomenon itself. If we are to continue to make any progress in this wildly emotional sea toward our goal, we must develop and engage our higher faculties of reason, analysis and intuition, and the tools of logic, organization, observation and classification to bring about a better understanding of one of the most challenging mysteries of all time. It isn't easy to overcome our instinctive emotional tendency to engage in irrational disputation, but it will reap rewards to redirect our efforts.

Bill Hamilton
Glendale, CA

Editor:

I first met Bill Cooper at a lecture series in California. At that point he was a lost soul, and although he was not personally my type and I could not resonate to his vibes and demeanor, he was a brother in need of help, and so I endorsed him based upon what little I knew at the moment. Since then, I have watched him surge to the frontlines of ufology using his great wealth of gloom and doom, scaring the pants off the general public. As time progressed, however, I began to take another look at what he was saying and presenting, and a red flag went up. Questions rose in my mind— How much of this is true? What percentage of this is disinformation, half lies, half truths? Isn't it conceivable that Bill is being used by the powers that be, wittingly or unwittingly?

Knowing or suspecting all of this, I still was of the opinion that what he was doing was directly serving the best interests of the people and making them aware of a government conspiracy. I was also hoping he would cause those he reached to realize and exercise discernment, an invaluable lesson of our times. All of this I might have continued to allow until other factors began to emerge.

The difficult part of all this is to determine how much is by design and how much is by external influence, either real or imagined, and also how much is pure fantasy. As has always been my policy, I am not quick to judge others and allow them to speak for themselves either by action or word, which will ultimately seal their fate. Summing it all up, there are some questionable areas in Bill's conduct and so-called expertise which need to be clarified or set to rest. His and our failure to address these matters is a reflection upon those of us who have spent a great deal of time and effort in maintaining a degree of integrity when dealing with the subject of ufology. Let's call Cooper to terms and settle this matter once and for all.

Virgil Armstrong
Village of Oak Creek, AZ

Editor:

Thanks for the article on Bill Cooper. He has a way of attracting fanatics. A friend of mine sent me his "Secret Government" tape.

One has to admit that the Cooper story is very clever. He's got most of the popular conspiracies wrapped up in one scenario— crashed aliens, the JFK assassination, CIA, FBI, drugs are all in there. The only one missing is the Marilyn Monroe conspiracy.

I returned the tape to my friend and told him Cooper was nuts and a fraud. My friend reacted very hostilely and cut off communication with me. I am sending this person your magazine.

Jim Beebe
Warrenville, IL

Ed. Note:

For additional comments regarding Cooper, see page 17).

Editor:

Regarding Kathryn McCampbell's article, "In Defense of Abduction Hypnotists" (Vol. 5, No. 4): Finally a clear, sober voice cutting through some of the hysteria, misinformation and ignorance surrounding this issue, putting things in more proper perspective.

I could never quite buy the assumption that a subject under hypnosis could be "lead" by the hypnotist to reflect his or her preconceptions, no matter how "willing to please" that subject might be. I am someone who's been put into a deep trance a number of times, and part of me has always been keenly aware of what's going on, and no one has been able to lead me to say anything I didn't believe to be the absolute, honest truth at the time. Also, I wish that individuals alleging abduction accounts that are biased toward the hypnotists would come forward with specific examples of these instances.

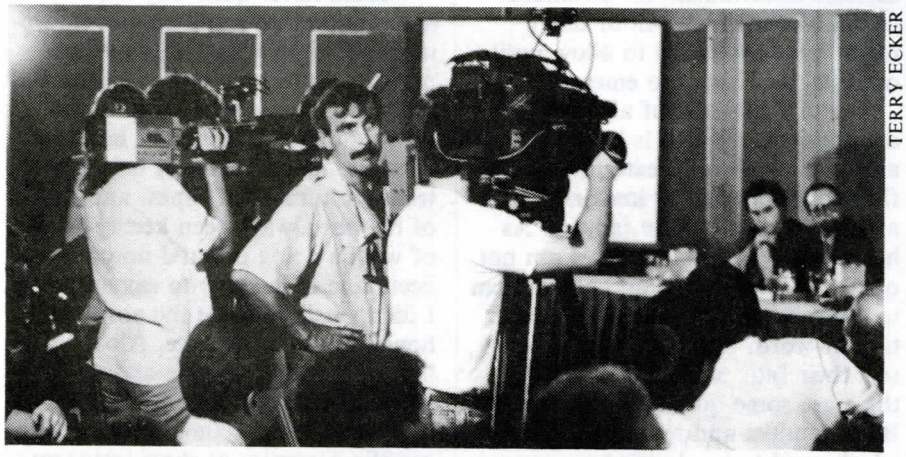
John William
Lopez Brooklyn, NY

GEORGE KRUSE

HORDES—An estimated 900-plus people attended the 1990 MUFON Conference, held at the Pensacola Hilton in Pensacola, FL.

GEORGE KRUSE

ON VIEW—A big screen monitor gave the full picture at MUFON's various presentations throughout the weekend.



TERRY ECKER

HUB-BUB—A crowded press conference on Saturday attracted many media reps, who were introduced to the MUFON speakers.

MUFON, 1990: 'ET Impact'

The 21st Annual MUFON UFO Symposium held in Pensacola, FL, July 6-8, attracted UFO aficionados from all over the U.S., who spent three days initially in the Pensacola Hilton and then at the neighboring Civic Center, where they explored the topic of "UFOs: The Impact of E.T. Contact Upon Society."

Helping in this exploration was the roster of speakers whose angles on the theme ran from New Age to case study interpretations.

Among speakers were Budd Hopkins (replacing Rima Laibow), John Brandenburg, Barry Downing, Robert Hall, John L. Spencer, Brian O'Leary, David Gotlib, Antonio Huneeus and Carey Baker.

By far the most anticipated talk was that of premier Gulf Breeze UFO witness and author Ed Walters, who with his wife Frances shared information about recent UFO events with the audience and answered some of the charges being made by debunkers.

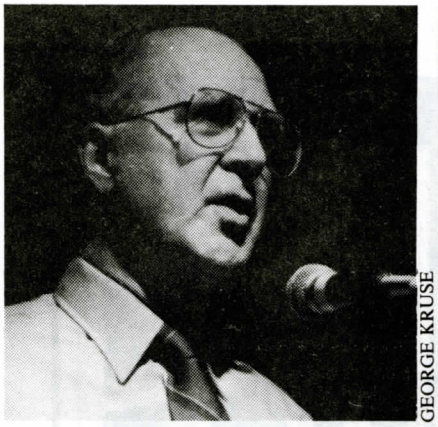
A well-attended press conference Saturday afternoon gave each speaker a chance to preview their talks before assembled media (See page opposite).

TERRY ECKER

MUFON Director Walt Andrus—'We stand by Ed Walters 100 percent.'

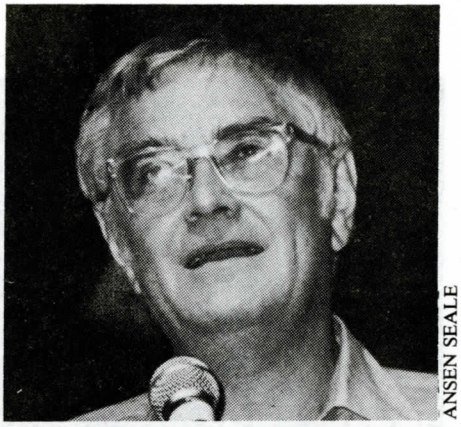
ANSEN SEALE

***JOURNALIST ANTONIO HUNEEUS**—'The state of ufology in the Soviet Union is a state of glasnost—which hasn't seemed to reach over here.'*



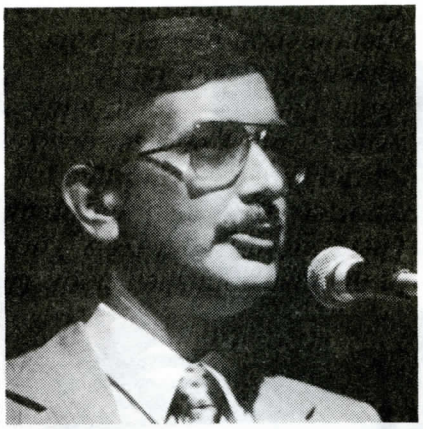
GEORGE KRUSE

***ACADEMICIAN ROBERT HALL**—'Witnesses reported fast, high-speed balloons passing B-29 formations. I never understood how a balloon could outrun a B-29!'*



ANSEN SEALE

***RESEARCHER BUDD HOPKINS**—'The possibility that there may actually be more UFO abductions than UFO sightings was a radical notion. Now it seems to be very close to the truth.'*



ANSEN SEALE

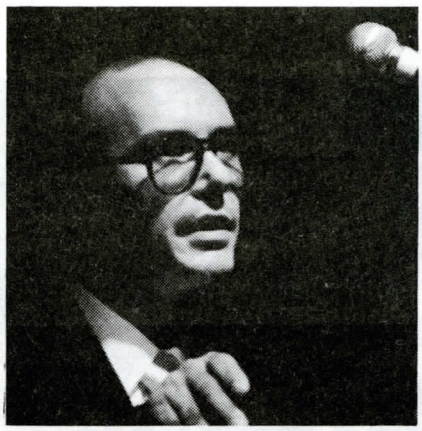
***NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER CAREY BAKER**—'A lot of people I have known have seen these UFOs. That's what has convinced me.'*

GEORGE KRUSE

***DAVID A. GOTLIB, M.D.**—'As fascinating as this mystery is, nothing is more important than the welfare of the witnesses.'*

ANSEN SEALE

***PASTOR BARRY H. DOWNING**—'The Bible says that we're basically in the early stages . . . The government has time to say yes, there may be a better way to find out what [the aliens] want.'*

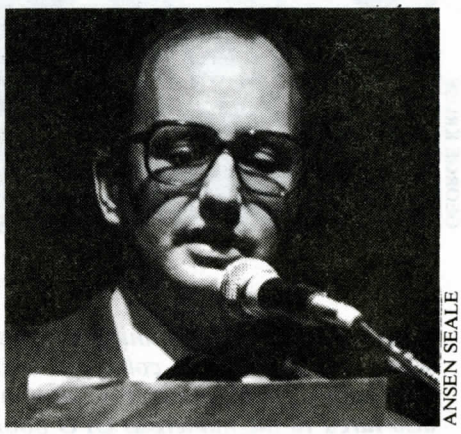


GEORGE KRUSE

***BRITISH UFOLOGIST JOHN L. SPENCER**—'The UFO phenomenon is shrouded in make believe and mythology. . . this make believe and mythology is not replacing the reality, it is camouflaging and hiding the reality.'*

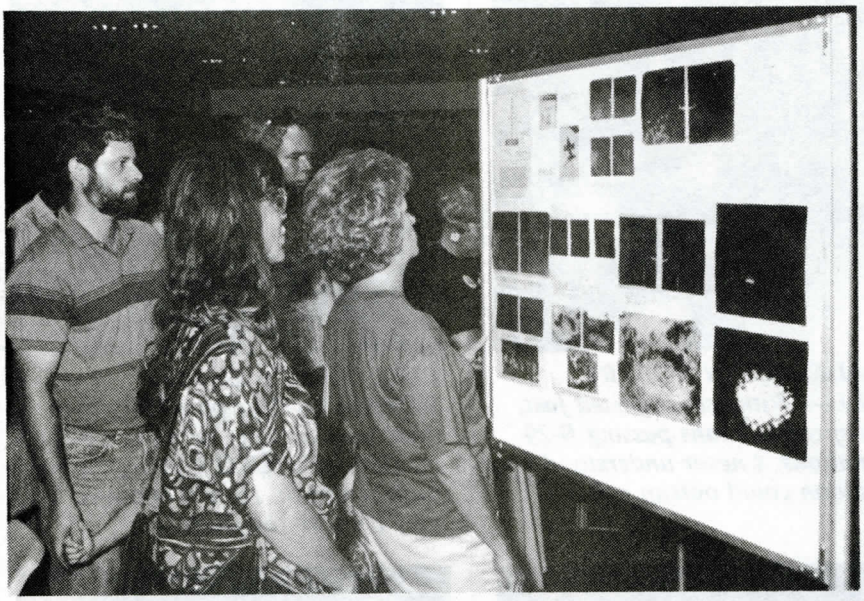
GEORGE KRUSE

***SPACE SCIENTIST BRIAN O'LEARY**—'We need a paradigm larger than our current science . . . the results will be nothing less than astounding. We're dealing with a whole new age.'*



ANSEN SEALE

***PHYSICIST JOHN BRANDENBURG**—'I am convinced that man is not alone in the cosmos. What would be the most positive destiny we could imagine for ourselves in this populated cosmos?'*

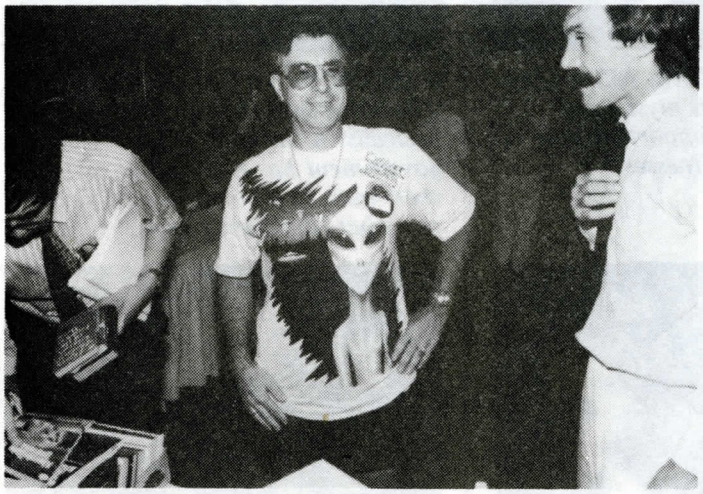


ANSEN SEALE

MORE G.B. PIX—*MUFON's sizeable UFO photo display featured a number of newer photographs from Ed Walters and other witnesses (left), collected as part of the Gulf Breeze investigation. Also displayed were the historical ufological photos MUFON considers genuine, alongside a few hoaxed photos for comparison purposes.*

BLOW-UP—*A quick walk around the exhibit room offered various buying opportunities from UFO retailers and exhibitors who had their wares on sale. This poster (right) is a blow-up of Walters' famous 'road shot' of Jan. 12, 1988.*

TERRY ECKER

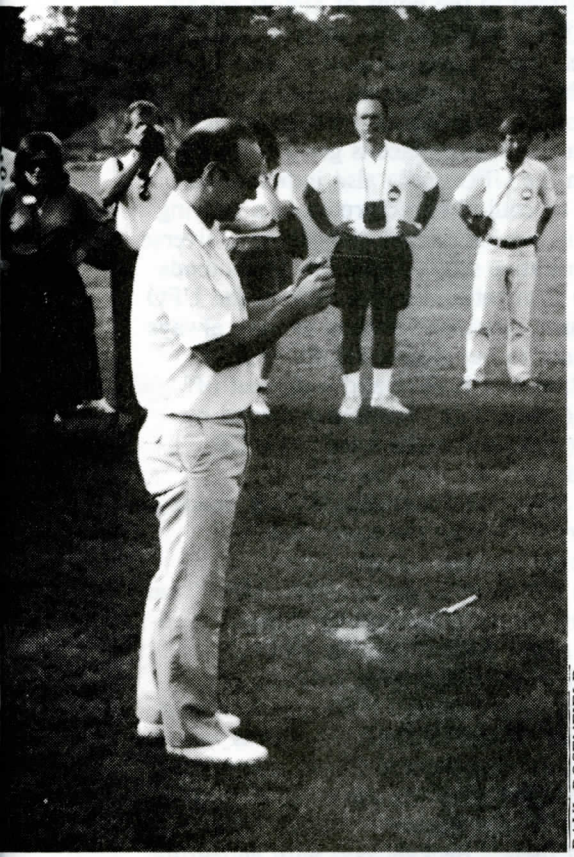


GEORGE KRUSE

GREY DISPLAY—*An unidentified participant (above) wears one of the crisp, colorful T-shirts for sale in the exhibit room, which shows a regulation 'grey'. Buyers were also lured to the numerous UFO books, magazines, tapes, videos and ufological papers and reports available.*

GEORGE KRUSE

During the conference, MUFON sponsored an early Sunday morning bus trip to the actual locations in Gulf Breeze where Walters and others had sighted UFOs or had experienced even closer encounters. Tour guides tried to supply the travelers with additional information on the witness claims and photos which have made this case stand out.

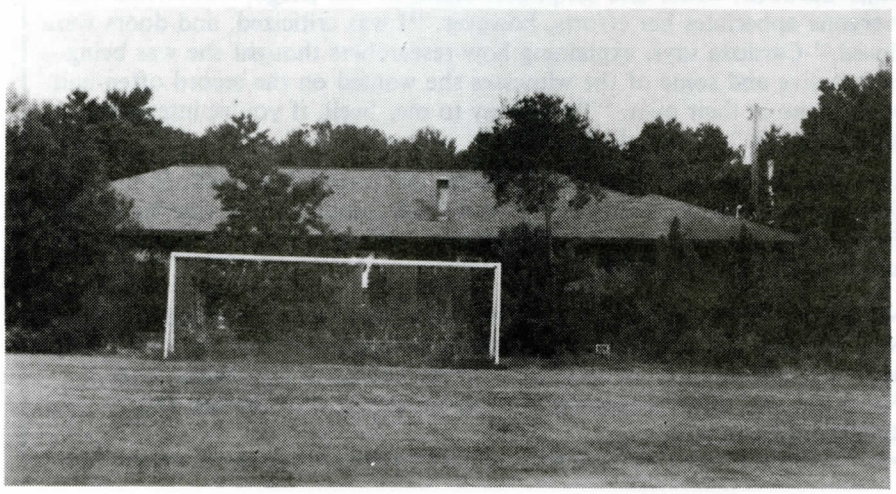


PAUL ROSENFIELD

***GRIN AND FEEL IT**—British ufologist John L. Spencer used a divining rod on what was left of a strange circular impression in the field adjacent to Walter's former home. He did detect an 'energy presence,' although the circle of once-dead grass is now overgrown.*

***LINE OF SIGHT**—Dr. Bruce Maccabee, a director of the Fund for UFO Research, explains photo facts at a witness site in Gulf Breeze.*

***ED TERRITORY**—Tour participants get the lowdown about Ed Walters' UFO sightings at the local high school and in back of his previous house.*



PHOTOS BY GEORGE KRUSE
(except where noted)

Gulf Breeze Attorney Pursues Reopened Cash-Landrum Case

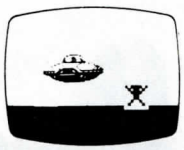
Betty Cash and Vickie Landrum, two women whose case against the government in relation to their UFO encounter in Texas 10 years ago was thrown out of court, have retained a new attorney who is is re-opening the complaint based on new evidence.

Attorney Clay V. Ford, Jr. of Gulf Breeze, Florida, is looking over newly-obtained court documents and other material in his preliminary review of the case, and indicates that new facts and testimony will be forthcoming which shore up his clients' contention that the U.S. government is liable for damages in the 1980 UFO encounter, which made headlines is still considered a classic UFO case among some investigators.

On Dec. 29, 1980, Cash, Landrum and Landrum's grandson Colby (also named in the suit) were driving toward their home in Dayton along a road about 30 miles north of Houston, when they allegedly encountered a brightly-glowing craft the size of a water tower. According to the witnesses, the craft was spewing flames and bathed them in high heat for several minutes. The object was escorted by over 20 dark helicopters, which are said to have been double-rotor Chinooks commonly used in military operations.

During the original proceedings, the government apparently offered affidavits from high-ranking officials claiming the government had nothing to do with the UFO. Whether the UFO was government-owned or "alien" is unclear, but may have little bearing on Cash-Landrum's case. "Whether the craft was alien or not, the government is liable," says Ford, a retired colonel who once specialized in war planning for the U.S. Army in Europe. His clients suffered physical illnesses in the wake of the encounter.

The original suit asking $20 million in damages was filed under the Federal Tort Claims Act, but was dismissed in 1985 on procedural grounds. The witnesses' attorney for that litigation was Peter Gersten of New York.



UFO . . . MediaWatch

UFO Magazine continues to receive positive feedback from the reading public as "the best UFO magazine" around. For a short time during the past few months, that accolade fell a few notches since it appeared we were the *only* UFO magazine around; rumors of New York-based ***UFO Universe*** quietly going under had escalated to the point of almost certain believability, with even in-the-know Universe editor Tim Beckley confirming that the current issue had been held back from the presses due to some serious financial and distribution problems. To some, the book's demise seemed imminent. Some of our supporters took that as great good news.

To have virtually no competition in the marketplace is good news for any business. But zilch competition in the UFO arena also indicates an obvious bearishness to our market, and so could be interpreted as a slowing off of UFO interest in general. As it is, we have never considered Universe competition in any but the most quantitative sense. Since our focus tends to be more qualitative, and since The Competition's approach to the UFO issue deviates so substantially from ours, relations between us have always been friendly, with a mutual attunement to our real-world differences.

The fact is, Beckley tells us, UFO Universe is alive and well, just off deadline a bit because of a transfer of ownership. Previously owned by pulp publisher Al Weiss, UFO Universe is now in the hands of GCR Publishing, which has several other mainstream titles on the stands—***Swank, New Body, Country Style and Swimwear, U.S.A.*** among them. What will GCR do with Universe? Though the cover look will change, the editor promises, the editorial content will not.

Nearly a lifetime of involvement in UFO publishing by "Mr. UFO" has cultivated his somewhat jaded but very practical outlook on things. "People all the time are asking me what I really think about the UFOs," Beckley muses, "and I tell them, 'it doesn't matter what I think. The phenomenon behaves independently of what I think.' " Be that as it may, he is in his own way an insider's insider on the UFO crowd. Guess who was once his assistant editor? None other than Jerome Clark, now high-minded editor of the ***International UFO Reporter***. At the time, Beckley's magazine was the ***Interplanetary News Service Report***. "Things Jerome pooh-poohs now he was a follower of then," Beckley says with endearing syntax. "Mr. UFO" is such an old hand, in fact, that he shrugs off the niggling fact that a picky ufologist is rattling sabres at Beckley because a certain term appeared in one of the publisher's recent book titles. His absolute top seller, Beckley says, has been ***The Unpublished Prophecies of Nostradamus***, which cleared 80,000 copies in sales.

BOOKS: An abortive attempt to collect firsthand abduction testimony for her prospective anthology on alien hybrid offspring is being revived by ***Anne Cardoza***, writer and script consultant in San Diego, California. Not everyone appeciates her efforts, however. "I was criticized, and doors were closed," Cardoza says, explaining how researchers thought she was being exploitative and some of the witnesses she wanted on the record often had book plans of their own. "They'd say to me, 'well, if you're interested, read my book,' " she told ***UFO***.

TV: NBC's ***Unsolved Mysteries*** is on the UFO news fast track. In production are segments regarding the revived Cash-Landrum case (see News) and the startling Kecksburg, PA UFO incident, which will also be featured in an upcoming issue of UFO.

NEWSLETTERS: Its publishers want everyone to check out ***Orbiter***, the New England Aerial Phenomena Report, a bi-monthly bulletin "providing news and information on cases and current events of significant value." For prices and other information, write Orbiter at 43 Harrison St., Reading, MA 01867.

Sierra Leone's 'Mars Stamp'

Sierra Leone, a small African country near troubled Liberia, recently issued a collectors set of postage stamps bearing the renowned geomorphological anomaly dubbed the "Face on Mars."

When the country devalued its currency shortly after this stamp set was issued, prices didn't fall. They climbed—from a $100 face value up to $150.

About a 100 stamp dealers were able to purchase some of the stamp sets before they were entirely sold out. Interest is obviously keen for something NASA insists is nothing more than "a trick of light and shadow."

INTERNATIONAL—The flags of many worlds pay homage to potential players in a future exploratory mission to Mars. Stamp shown on right.

Reno Man Plans UFO Museum

Nevada resident Jerry Smith recently announced his plans for a UFO museum.

Planned to be located in Reno, Nevada, the National UFO Museum is slated to open its doors to the public in April, 1991. Smith says the facility will house a large repository of UFO evidence, including photos, documents, artifacts and displays. Topics of interest included in the archives will be the beings who control flying saucers, UFO crash sites, government cover-ups and hidden alien bases, among others.

In addition to the public exhibits, the museum will feature a bookstore and giftshop specializing in ufological publications and products. Smith foresees research and publications departments as part of the museum effort.

For more information, contact Jerry E. Smith at the National UFO Museum, P.O. 20593, Sun Valley, NV 89433.

National UFO Museum

National UFO Museum logo

Upcoming Events

SEPT. 7, 8 & 9: SECOND ANNUAL NATIONAL NEW AGE & ALIEN AGENDA CONFERENCE, sponsored by Timothy Beckley, presents over 25 lectures and workshops. Featured personalities include a security guard present during the alleged 1980 Rendelsham Forest landings in England, Betty Andreasson, Billy Goodman, Brad and Sherry Steiger, Dr. Frank Stranges, Dr. Brian O'Leary, William Hamilton, Christa Tilton and William Oribello. "Max" the crystal skull will also be on display. Special price: $110 for all lectures and the Saturday night banquet. (Admission to workshops is additional.) For registration information, call (212) 713-5976 or(602) 230-5381. Or write the Conference at Box 753, New Brunswick, NJ 08903.

SEPT. 12-27: STAR PEOPLE TOUR to Peru will be led by Brad and Sherry Steiger and will highlight mysterious sites such as the Nazca lines and the "lost city" of Machu Picchu. Deposit to reserve space on the tour is now past due. Contact Visions Travel at 9841 Airport, Ste. 520, Los Angeles, CA 90045

OCT. 13: SHOW ME UFO CONFERENCE, II in St. Louis, MO, examines the many implications of UFOs—which are rapidly becoming I(Identified)FOs. Featured guests: Dr. Bruce Maccabee, Budd Hopkins, Linda Howe and John Altshuler, M.D. $10 per session or $30 for the entire day. For reservations, mail fee to UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, P.O. Box 31544, St. Louis, MO 63131

OCT. 13-14: OMEGA CONFERENCE, 1990, features Jacques Vallee, Travis Walton, Ann Druffel, Stanton Friedman, Antonio Huneeus, Ed and Frances Walters, Harry Lebelson, Paul Devereaux, Fred Max, Gene Phillips and Brian O'Leary. Contact John White, Omega Conference, P.O. Box 2051, Cheshire, CT 06410.

NOV. 3: UFOs IN THE 1990s is the public part of a private three-day conference co-sponsored by the Center for Santa Barbara's Humanistic Studies and Center for UFO Studies in Chicago. Public papers from academicians and ufologists will be presented. Special guests include David Jacobs, George Eberhart, Mark Rodgehier, Edward Bullard and Bruce Maccabbee. Event will be held at Santa Barbara's Lobero Theater. More information is available from Gordon Melton, P.O. Box 90709, Santa Barbara, CA 93190.(805) 967-2669.

THE BLUE FILE

With this issue, we begin a new section to accommodate the expanding amount of news and views arriving daily in our mailbox. Readers are invited to contribute their various news finds to our pages; we reserve the right to edit as needed.

In this issue, the Blue File—blue being the alleged UFO code name used by the Air Force—documents more black chopper sightings, a couple of pro-UFO satellite anomalies, the word on bees, and a possible cattle mute-nuke connection.

The unexplained and ostensibly menacing presence of two unmarked, black helicopters over Sedona, Arizona earlier this year has left some citizens of this lovely desert community wondering just what's going on.

Witnesses allegedly observed the dark choppers flying at illegally low altitudes over the Boynton Canyon and Long Canyon areas, the Village of Oak Creek as well as in takeoff and landing patterns at Sedona Airport.

Observers at the airport say these Cobra gunships (with unknown ordnance configurations) land and refuel at an isolated, remote site away from the usual landing area for helicopters. Witnesses have been told the craft are from the Drug Enforcement Administration; others suggest they may be under control of the U.S. Customs Service.

Still others, however, feel the choppers have interdicted them and others at the Boynton Canyon-Secret Mountain area, perhaps to prevent the discovery or possible contact with interdimensional alien beings believed to have access to a "portal" that permits exploration of Sedona, or protecting the existence of a secret government base. Other ominous but as-yet unverified reports have circulated which add to the mysterious UFO aura which surrounds Sedona, a long-time haven for New Agers.

A memo outlining citizens' concern about the black choppers has reached the city council and Arizona state senators. ***—from Ed DeMar***

CHOPPER STOP*—This photo of the type of black helicopters reported by some witnesses in Sedona was taken at an isolated portion of the Sedona Airport during January of this year.*

Those interested in communicating with other species now have a new entry on their list: bees. Many people have focused efforts at communicating with household pets, dolphins, whales, elephants and extraterrestrials, but etymologists now report signficant progress with the lowly honeybee.

A breakthrough computerized robotic honeybee, recently reported in *Science News,* has been used to successfully communicate with live bees. Researchers programmed the model to "dance the message" that food had been found at a certain location, and hivemates got the message, flying off to that exact location. Other messages about other locations again lured the bees to the precise spots.

Scientists recognize that other types of communication are possible besides food information, with only simple re-programming of the computer. Do people and bees have anything worthwhile to discuss?

Perhaps we could negotiate with the killer bees, convincing them to return south. ***—from Vince Migliore***

A little-known project by the Atomic Energy Commission has a history which may be of benefit to cattle mutilation research.

In 1967, Project Gasbuggy—spinoff of another project exploring peaceful uses of atomic energy—detonated a 26-kiloton nuclear device beneath San Juan Basin—located 20 miles southeast of Dulce, NM.

After the explosion, project engineers released large quantities of radioactivity into the atmosphere and left enough underground to possibly contaminate ground water.

These events took place in 1967, just before the first large rash of mutilations began to break out in the Southwest United States.

—From Tal LeVesque

In 1975, the U.S. Defense Meteorological Satellite Program photographed a curved arc near Johnson Island in the Pacific Ocean, apparently an object which flew into camera range for approximately a half-minute's duration. At the time, DMSP scientists determined that the visual imagery indicated it was not a man-made space object.

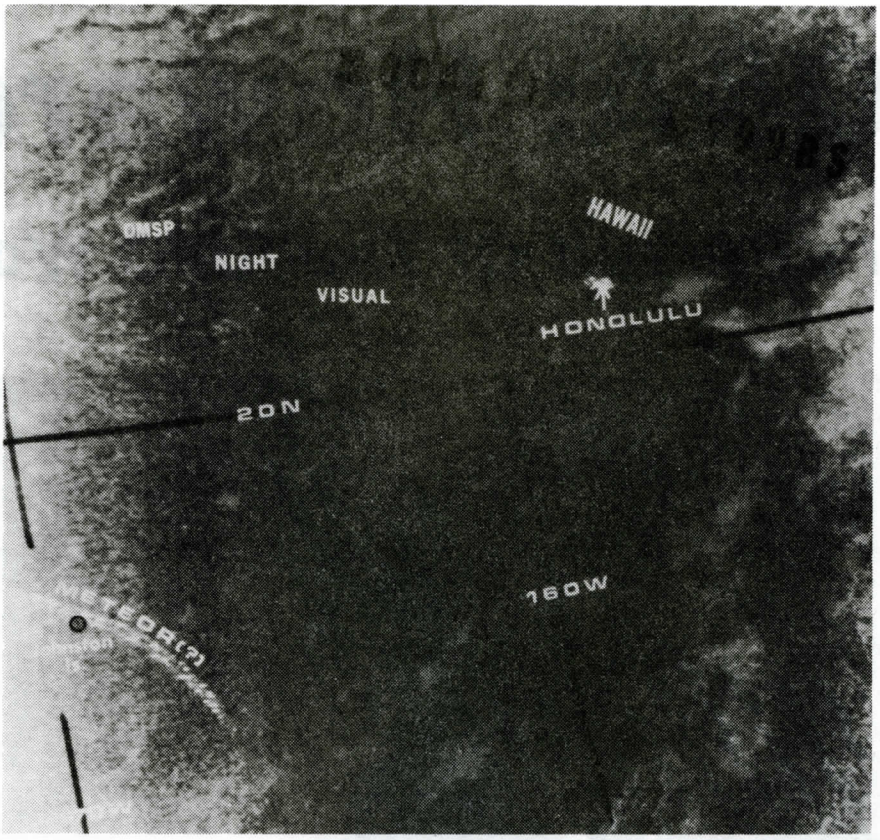
Then in November of 1984, a DMSP nighttime visual showed a curved line of a similar type. NASA Goddard Space Flight Center indicated that no objects were listed as having decayed on that date.

Were these objects UFOs?

Recently, a satellite meterologist in Florida took a call from a well-known astronomer who felt the meteor trail seen in 1975 was not a meteor at all. A meteor's re-entry speed would have revealed only a second or two in path length; it so happens that both the 1975 and 1984 photos indicate that the time for these bright, curved lines was 30 seconds or so. The photos also show a latitudinal distance of at least a degree or more (1 degree equals 60 nautical miles), not consistent with a meteor re-entry.

With the man-made object and meteor identifications eliminated, the UFO explanation is best.

—from Hank Brandli



OVER THE OCEAN—DMSP imagery taken near the Hawaiian Islands. To the lower left passing over Johnston Island is what appears to be a meteor trail. Research has indicated that no man-made space object was re-entering the atmosphere at this time and location.

Another nighttime DMSP showing curved arc over north-central U.S. and Canada. Was it a UFO?

Soviet delegates attending last year's International UFO Congress in West Germany impressed other participants with their candid disclosures about ET phenomena in Russia. The delegates, three men from the Soviet Academy of Sciences and a woman cosmonaut, told of alleged Mars landings and a wide assortment of ET types, including beings up to 14 feet tall.

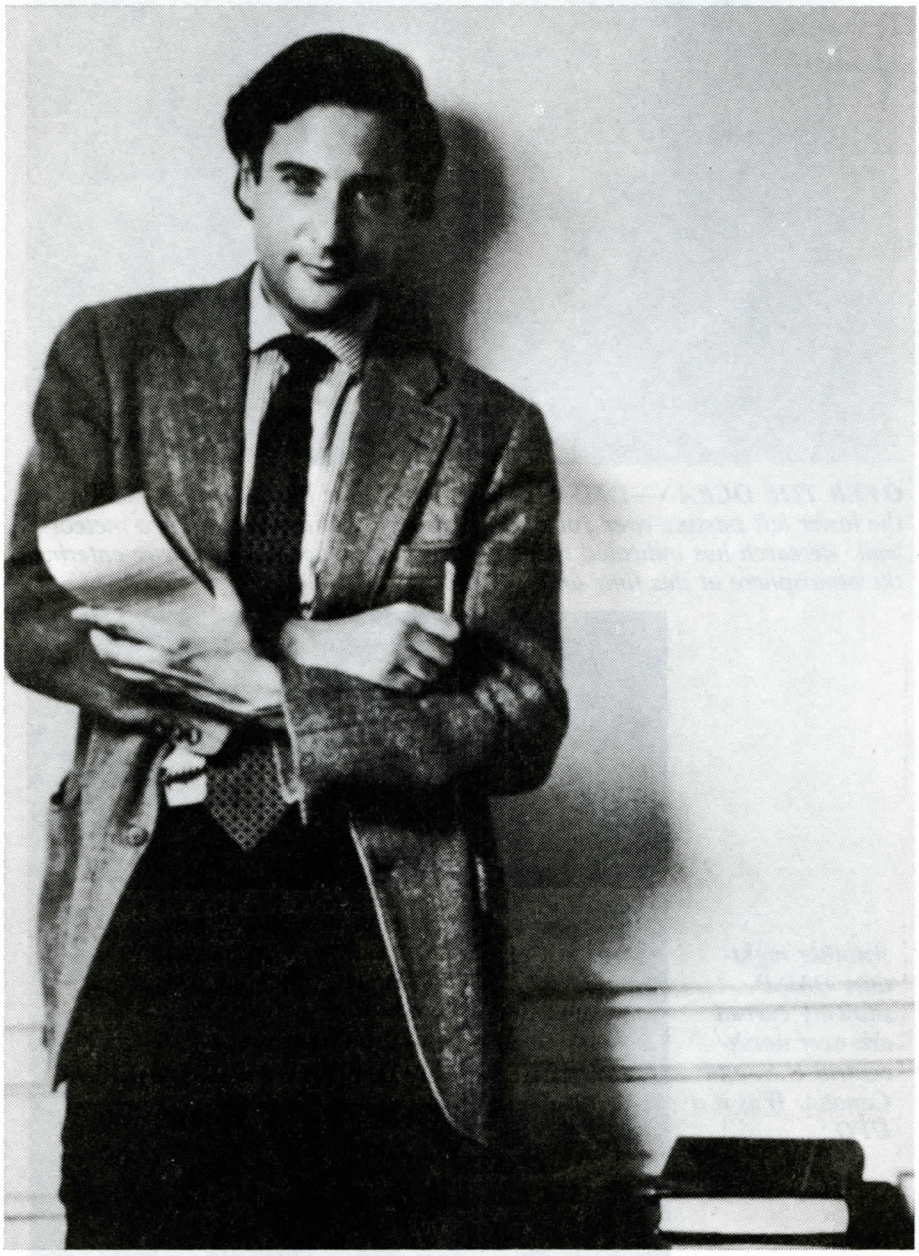
The Soviets reported that although their country experiences its fair share of malefic abductions, mutilations and short-term pregnancies associated with alien experimentation, for the most part the abdundance of ET interaction remains friendly and helpful.

Several speakers at the Congress were invited to the Soviet Union to witness this alleged phenomena and present lectures and workshops.

—from Virgil Armstrong

Q&A: Howard Blum

In Pursuit Of The 'UFO Working Group'



Former New York Times Reporter Howard Blum is the author of two other non-fiction books, ***Wanted: The Search for Nazis in America*** *and* ***I Pledge Allegiance: The True Story of the Walkers, an American Spy Family****. His accomplishments in investigative reporting twice earned Blum Pulitzer nominations from Times' editors.* *(See book review, p. 40.)*

In his just-published book ***Out There****, hard-nosed New York reporter Howard Blum breaks journalistic tradition and writes frankly and seriously about the government's involvement in the UFO phenomenon as well as its alleged long-time interest in extraterrestrials. The details of his report from insiders, however, throw doubt on other attention-getting info that has circulated in ufology.*

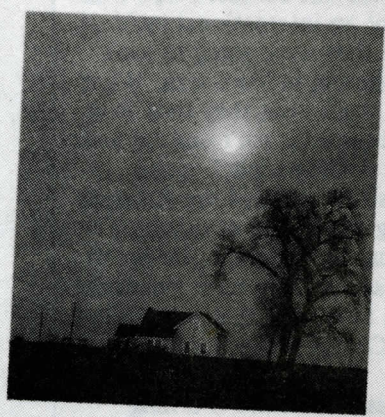
MJ-12 comes in for renewed examination in respect to Blum's source material, as does our government's involvement in extensive disinformation campaigns and in psychic experimentation. (Project Aquarius, according to the book, dealt with remote viewing, not UFOs.)

If we can believe the report on the government's UFO chain-of-command which ran in Vol. 4, No. 1 of ***UFO****, written by Washington, D.C. journalist James Neilson (pseudonym), then Blum's book is a massive understatement of what's really going on. Conversely, if we are to believe Blum, then Neilson's sources are suspect and obviously prone to dangerous exaggeration! What gives?*

UFO *spoke with Blum to clarify a few things. Things are not yet completely clear. But what we do know is that it all started with an NSA operative . . .*

In the winter of 1987, following a series of puzzling events, seventeen members of the U.S. intelligence community were summoned to the Pentagon. Their Top-Secret mission: to determine if there was life...

OUT THERE



HOWARD BLUM

Author of *Wanted!* and *I Pledge Allegiance*

Apparently you went ahead with this project after the government verified your original source's bona fides to your satisfaction. He was with the National Security Agency?

I was satisfied that he worked with the NSA. In the book, I didn't want to give away anything that would lead to his identity, but what I did to answer the question was to show that the information he gave me was enough to make the NSA so concerned that they considered prosecution. They were out to get an official for talking to me, but they had the wrong man. But the information was relevant enough and classified enough to upset the government about it being made public, so that convinced me.

This comment from him about UFOs came just kind of out of the blue?

Totally out of the blue.

Is there a possibility you were being fed disinformation to possibly sabotage your long-term search in this area?

It's something that has to concern every reporter. But if they were feeding me . . . well, I've been fed stories before, and this is a story I'm certain I wasn't fed. I had to work too hard, I had to do too much manipulation of people and too much talking in trying to get the story.

They wanted the UFO story, too, and you indicate that part of their task was to investigate an area where a "good" UFO case happened. But they dismissed Gulf Breeze, correct?

The UFO Working Group apparently was told that there were tests of experimental crafts in the area, and that those might be what people were seeing. The military base near there is very close to Cuba. There was a feeling that there might be some type of secret government work being done there and that was the source of the UFO observations in and around Gulf Breeze. I can't speak for the validity of the information—that U.S. experimental craft is what caused the Gulf Breeze UFO case—but I am saying that this is what the Working Group decided.

'There was a feeling by the Working Group that some kind of secret government work was the source of UFO observations in and around Gulf Breeze.'

In some ways, the way you wrote it made the activities of the UFO Working Group seem somewhat disjointed.

I am not aware of all of the activities of the Working Group. I was given incidents where the people who I spoke to, my sources, either had specific, first-hand knowledge, things they were personally involved in where they could supply remembered

details and even the dates, or they had a direct interest in an event and would talk about it. For example, I might talk about Elmwood because the CIA was involved. Without revealing sources, I could utilize a CIA contact in relaying the information. So I might know about that incident more directly than something else, and chose to elaborate on it.

It would seem likely that the UFO Working Group is keeping tabs on international sightings and UFO incidents. Do you know if they have done anything about the recent sightings in the Soviet Union?

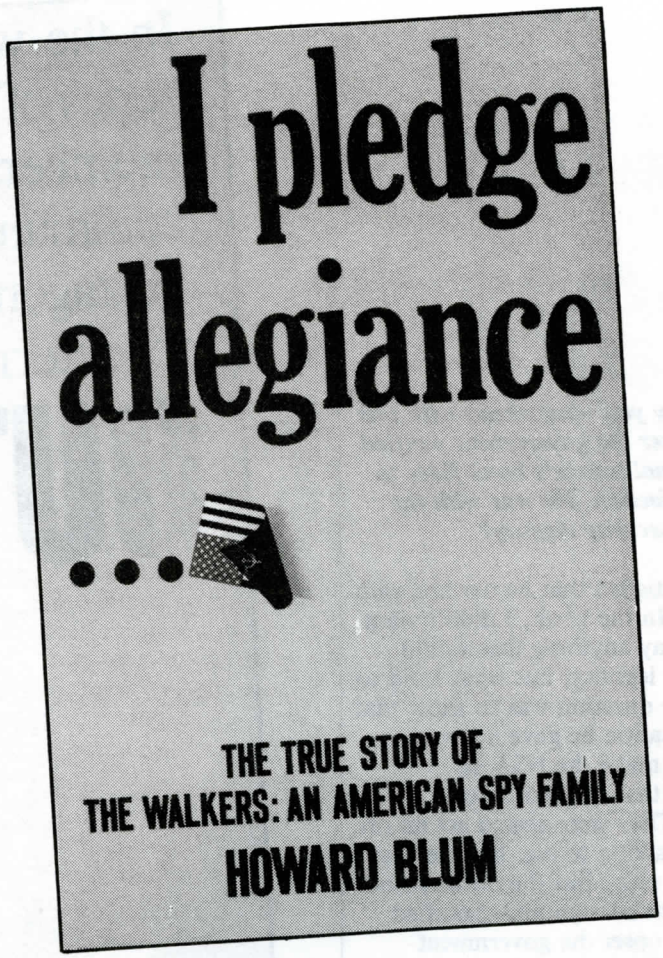
During the last contact I had with them about an international incident, I was told they were going to look into the sighting in Voronezh. What interested them—but they took it at face value that it wasn't real, at least according to the people I spoke with—was that perhaps the Russians were using some kind of psychic phenomena, like remote viewing, to sight this saucer. The term "biolocation" was used, and that was, to the Working Group, worth looking into.

You suggested that the Working Group was questioning whether the Soviets were involved with parapsychological research. Wouldn't they have been briefed about how much the Soviet Union has done in that area?

Well, our government was never involved in using parapsychology looking for UFOs; it just happened by accident. That's the incident which is covered early in the book. What fascinated the Working Group was that all of a sudden it seemed the Russians apparently had had the same sort of accident. Or perhaps it was a deliberate program. The U.S. government has never had a deliberate program linking psychic research and UFOs.

You spent so much time explaining SETI, SETI scientists, and the events and atmosphere at Elmwood, Wisconsin, only one of many places where UFO events have happened. Aren't they rather minor in the whole spectrum of UFO phenomena?

I would have liked to have had the entire minutes of the UFO Working Group. I would have liked to have



been able to have had conversations with all 17 members of the Group. I interviewed three members and spoke to a couple of people who addressed the UFO Working Group. Of the three, only two talked in great detail. One person wasn't very cooperative after awhile. Clearly, I couldn't have the entire picture. It's like any job of reporting. You want to get your story out, and you want to be first with it. You think it's newsworthy and the public has a right to know, and at some point you decide when to run with it, when you have enough of a story. This is not the whole story, and it might not be the whole thing that I'm going to write.

You did leave some impression that you were setting things up for a follow-up . . .

I think it's important to recognize that the Working Group is an ongoing body. Perhaps, now that I've brought them into the glare of some spotlight, I might have greater access to information, I'm hoping. One thing I learned as a *Times* reporter is that stories grow incrementally. You don't go out and find the smoking gun with your first story, but you get bits and pieces of evidence. People respond to it and then it gathers a certain momentum.

In the course of your investigation, did any of these fellows express any interest or relate correlations between the purported animal mutilations and the UFO phenomenon?

There is a very strong circumstantial case there. Without disclosing the nature of my sequel . . . there are a lot of different elements within the story of this group and what they're doing. I could have touched on a lot of things in their activities; it was an intellectual, artistic and editorial decision to include what I did. I could have touched on things in passing rather than going into things in as much detail as possible.

I certainly can say that the government is looking into animal mutilations, and there is a really good story there. The UFO Working Group is very interested in mutilations, and I think it's something they had field teams look at and might still be hav-

ing a field team involved with.

In the book you describe the UFO encounter of an Elmwood patrol officer, George Wheeler, who was terrified and felt he had radiation poisoning. He died a short time thereafter. Was the Working Group interested in his situation?

Definitely. A field team took soil samples and went over his hospital records. In fact, they went over the hospital records of a lot of people in Elmwood. I don't know what they found out.

What about the abduction phenomenon? Have they looked into that?

I don't know. I assume so. It is a very broadly-based investigation. That's why the book is episodic. I wrote about the episodes that I was aware of. I just don't have entire knowledge of this group!

Would you allow for the possibility that this group could be a "public" front group for another, even more covert investigative body within the government?

Interestingly, members of this group aired that possibility themselves. When looking into the MJ-12 papers, some members of the group said—and not in jest—"Perhaps we're just a front organization for some sort of MJ-12. Suppose, in effect, we conclude the MJ-12 papers are phony, are counterfeit. Then we've solved the entire mystery for the government, relieving them of the burden in dealing with it, and at the same time, we allow the real secret to remain held by a higher source." An FBI agent told me there are so many levels within the government that even the government isn't aware of it! And that, to me, is a metaphor for the book.

What's your gut-level feeling about MJ-12?

I would think that the documents are genuine government documents, but they're not true. In other words, at this stage I think that they are part of a very specific government disinformation campaign.

Are you suggesting that there was no Roswell UFO crash—in the sense that an alien disc supposedly crashed in the New Mexico desert in 1947 and was recovered by the government?

Yes . . . (hesitates). . . Well, I don't know enough about Roswell. I shouldn't say that. Again, it should be emphasized that I am NOT a UFO authority, not a UFO believer. I am basically a cynical, skeptical reporter.

Did any of your sources indicate that they were keeping tabs on civilian UFO researchers?

They're not, but they did become aware that Air Force intelligence is monitoring UFO researchers. They're well above the government bodies that are doing this monitoring.

tation of 37 Nazi war criminals. I think the information in the new book will have some effect on Congress.

Did any of the Working Group members you spoke with express any concern about the public eventually having the real story about UFOs?

They feel the public does not have the right to know the whole thing about *any* intelligence matter. That's what makes them intelligence professionals.

So to them, it's an intelligence matter, end of story? Regardless of what ramifications befall the civilian populace, the ones who pay the bills?

Yes. That's right. But the fact is that they are employed by the civilian populace and the civilian populace is paying the bills.

'The Air Force's public disassociation with UFO investigation was a lie. In 1983-'84 a joint task force was set up that initiated many UFO investigations.'

How would the Air Force explain this, since their public disassocation in 1969, with the end of Project Blue Book?

Well, it was a lie. In 1983-84 a joint task force was set up—Air Force, Army, DIA—so during that time, they initiated many UFO case investigations. Then in 1987, the Working Group was begun.

So "Out There" is causing some "hand-wringing" in the Capitol these days? Or at least around the Pentagon, anyway . . . ?

Yes, and I think there are going to be repercussions on the Congressional level because of some of the information in my book. I think it's also interesting to point out that one of my other books, ***Wanted: The Search for Nazis in America,*** produced Congressional investigations and helped to create a Justice Department task force that resulted in the depor-

Are you interested in becoming more immersed in the entire UFO phenomenon?

I am interested in pursuing it in an investigative situation. I am not uninterested, and I wouldn't have written the book if I wasn't fascinated by the topic on some level.

Will you pursue it with an eye towards resolution of the fact that there is truly a United States government cover-up?

Yes, that is exactly what I am interested in.

It must be grating to be around people who are practiced liars, and whose job it is to misdirect and keep things from the very people who are paying their salaries.

That's why God invented reporters.

THE WHISTLEBLOWERS, II

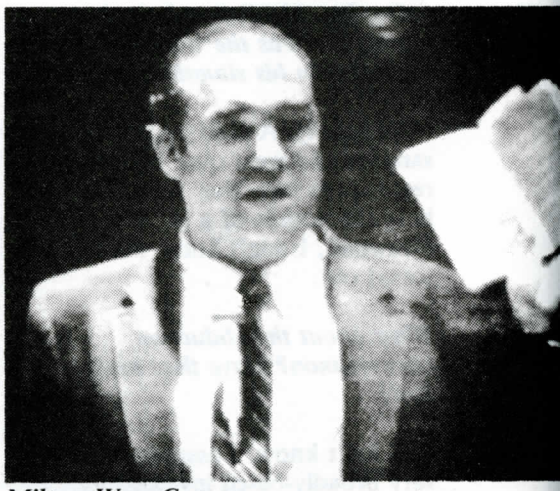
By Don Ecker

*In part one of this series, **UFO** focused on the background of Milton Wm. Cooper. Cooper's information raises many questions, especially in light of its sensationalist nature and the potential harm it may cause to unsuspecting, gullible innocents.*

During the latter part of 1988 and the very first part of 1989, Cooper's story varied widely from what he is presently disseminating. In early January 1989, Cooper was interviewed by a California researcher, Paul Shepherd. An excerpt of this interview follows. Cooper: "While serving in the United States Navy in 1972, I participated the intelligence briefing team of the Commander-in Chief of the United States Pacific Fleet . . . During this participation on the intelligence briefing team, I came across a document called the Grudge Bluebook Report Number 13, and a file called the Majesty File . . . classified Above Top Secret with a MAJIC classification, which means MAJI controlled; MAJIC is the Majestic Agency for Joint Intelligence. It is the organization that controls all the operations with UFOs and with an alien race that is present on the Earth." In later interviews, and especially after he began accusing researcher Bill Moore of being an agent of the secret government, Cooper began claiming that any file with the word "Majestic or forms thereof, are a fraud, a lie."

Attempting to check on Cooper's claim of belonging to a permanent intelligence briefing team while serving in the Navy between 1970 and 1973, which would have allowed him access to some classified documents, ***UFO*** called the United States Navy to determine how the Navy conducts its briefing teams. ***UFO*** spoke to Lt. Commander Ron Morse at the Office of Information-West.

Lt. Commander Morse stated that the Navy did not have permanent briefing teams, but would form a temporary one on a need basis.



Milton Wm. Cooper

"Usually if a team is put together, it will last for no more that two weeks," Morse said.

Many of Cooper's claims have been disputed not only by John Lear and Bob Lazar, but also by Tony Pelham, former reporter for the Las Vegas Bullet newspaper. All three men told ***UFO*** Magazine that Cooper admitted early on that he had never been on a briefing team, but had in fact "taken the documents, copied them and then returned them."

"Cooper told me that while he worked on the graveyard shift, he would wait for the Lt. JG [junior grade] to go on a coffee break, and then somehow get into the classified files," Pelham said. "I asked him if he broke into the files, but he never answered me.

"Cooper then told me he would take a number of files, copy them, and then carry them out in his lunch pail. He said he did this until he got all the files he needed." Cooper called Pelham in early August. "He asked me why I had turned away from him. He is really upset about all the people who are attacking him . . . he said that if I turned against him, he will crucify me next." Pelham also reports that when he asked Cooper about his claim that all his stolen government documents were lost in a garage fire, Cooper refused to give the date or location of the fire so Pelham could check the police or fire records, and would give no explana-

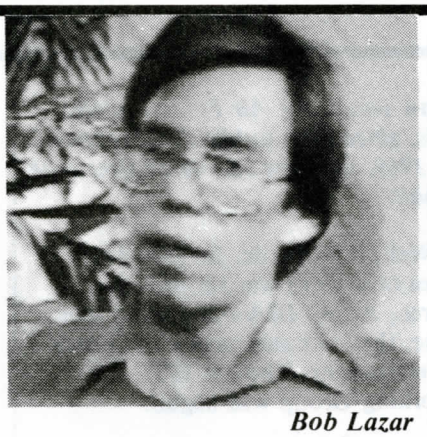
Continued on p. 18

Lazar Update

At press time, Las Vegas physicist Robert "Bob" Lazar had not yet been sentenced for the crime of pandering, but had reportedly obtained an important document which may strengthen his case. Lazar received his requested W-2 form from Naval Intelligence, which verifies his former employment with them.

Originally scheduled for August 6, his sentencing was postponed to August 13th, and once more delayed to August 17th. Lazar, with no known criminal record, could have been sentenced to up to 6 years in the Nevada State Prison.

Lazar first gained attention by publicly disclosing claims of his one-time involvement in top secret UFO/ET projects at the reputed S-4 section of "Dreamland" in the Nevada desert, highly protected test site for the U.S.' advanced military aircraft.



Bob Lazar

Then troubles with the law began. As a result of a plea bargain with the Clark County District Attorney, Lazar pled guilty to one charge of pandering, for admitting he set up a computer, programmed the software, and helped install a security system for an operating brothel in Clark County. While prostitution is legal in areas of Nevada, it is illegal in Clark County.

More on this story will be covered in the next issue of ***UFO***.

Additional News, Comments on Cooper

Taking A Closer Look

A few readers submitted other views in response to our first 'Whistleblowers' (Vol. 5, No 4).

I am very alarmed at the direction your magazine is going. Once your magazine was unbiased and presented all sides of the issue. Now, it seems to have turned into a UFO debunking machine. You are not afraid to debunk Bill Cooper in print yet you have never printed anything in your magazine authored by him and if you do so, it will probably only be allowed insofar as a response to your crude article about him. The evidence you present on him is weak and shallow. The only things stated in your article were his movements, associations, releases and the petty allegations going back and forth between UFO researchers. That is not hard core investigation and the petty allegations take up a lot of space, accomplishing nothing but strife and dissension, and your magazine encouraging that kind of pettiness does a real disservice to the UFO community.

Not only that, but I notice that your "reviewers" have taken a debunking, nit-picking attitude towards the Gulf Breeze sightings, even though premier researchers like Bruce Maccabee and Budd Hopkins have announced their beliefs in these sightings. Why haven't you reported on Gulf Breeze as a genuine phenomenon—a history-making event once and for all proving that UFOs are real!? Why don't you present equal sides on issues as any good news magazine would do? What's the problem?

—Name Withheld, San Diego, CA

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I just finished UFO, Vol. 5, No. 4, and the content was excellent. With one exception: The Whistleblowers article focusing on Milton William Cooper.

Don't get me wrong; I'm no Cooper supporter. I came to the conclusion quite a while ago that Uncle Milty isn't playing with a full deck. Anyone who's well read in the UFO phenomenon knows that the man has "borrowed" information from wide-ranging sources to form his own Unified Conspiracy Theory.

What I objected to in the article was that Ecker didn't go more deeply into Cooper's background. In fact, Ecker used some of Cooper's own techniques (which he then criticized) in an attempt to disprove Cooper's claims. I am talking, of course, about using complete hearsay to prove or disprove a piece of information; that is "Knapp said" he said this instead of that..." "Lazar said" he threw a temper tantrum, he swore on the phone. Who cares? The information in the article only proves that Cooper has a lousy memory and doesn't handle stress well. Let's face it: the proof of Cooper's dishonesty presented in the article isn't proof; it's gossip.

Cooper makes a lot of claims, but Ecker would only have to focus on four that prove that Cooper is either a fraud or possibly telling some form of truth:

1. Cooper claims to have seen MJ-12 information while serving in a sensitive position in the Navy. Why didn't Mr. Ecker try to obtain Cooper's service record?
2. Cooper claims that his information doesn't hold together tightly because he's recalling it from memory; in fact, he claims to have undergone hypnosis to reconstruct it as accurately as possible. Why didn't Ecker attempt to contact the hypnotist?
3. Cooper claims to have lost a $75,000 a year job due to his UFO knowledge. Why didn't Ecker contact the employer to verify that piece of information?
4. Cooper claims that Tony Pelham is one of the people who has independently verified his identity, employment, service record, intelligence background and so on. Why didn't Ecker contact Pelham to confirm that claim?

I am hoping that part 2 of your Whistleblowers series will tie up these loose ends, because at this point I have to agree with Jacques Vallee; Don Ecker needs to do his homework.

—David Simerly, Watsonville, CA

Ed. Note: Simerly brings up some excellent points, some of which are included in the allegations and documentation we have that could have been used, but which had not been adequately verified by press time. It has already been reported that, contrary to his claims, Cooper was terminated from the job he refers to for behavioral reasons, not for his UFO knowledge. UFO has not yet obtained verification of this from the school personnel. Service records, incidentally, are supposedly one of the easiest forms of documentation to alter or hoax. The Whistleblowers investigation is an continuing project that is only in its earliest stages. Updates will be published on an ongoing basis.

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One of the biggest draws in Cooper's more recent lecture presentations is a videotaped clip from the famous Abraham Zapruder film of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Lars Hansson, JFK assassination researcher and producer of the videotape, entitled, "The Truth Betrayed: Dallas Revisited," narrates on the tape how the Secret Service driver, William Greer, turns around and fires the fatal shot at Kennedy.

*In Nov. of 1988, **UFO** first saw this video at the home of John Lear, who had also given the tape to Cooper the month before. Hansson gave the following statement to **UFO**.*

According to John Lear, Cooper was very interested in the Kennedy video at the time he received it, but it was not until they were both guests on a Las Vegas TV talk show with George Knapp in April 1989 that, much to Lear's surprise, Cooper claimed that he had seen verification of the driver scenario in the Navy briefing papers he claims to have read between 1970 and 1973.

Cooper has merely been using the videotape as a sensational ploy to sell tickets to his events. I had told Cooper not to show my tape publicly in early November 1989, that I did not support the theory and hadn't since November 1988, and have

Continued on p. 47

Statement

In Defense Of The Facts

When I began to look at Cooper's UFO-related information, our purpose was to examine his claims and see how valid they were. This endeavor started with Cooper's CAJI newsletter, and his claims that people such as Bob Lazar, John Lear, Bill Moore and others were engaged in various illegal or unethical acts.

But back in April and May of 1990, Lazar, for instance, had NO criminal charges even pending. Apparently Lear was targeted by Cooper only because he appeared on the George Knapp special and exposed some of Cooper's bogus information over the air.

When ***UFO*** tried to contact Cooper, he immediately blew up. Sure enough, before too long he launched a smear campaign against the magazine and this writer. Cooper has even called the magazine and threatened to sue unless we print a complete retraction of Part One, published in ***UFO***, Vol. 5, No. 4. Never a word that parts of the story (in his opinion) are wrong, not a word that he wants his side told in these pages. Instead, in his latest newsletter, Cooper has resorted once more to smearing, innuendo and libel. He even engages in an incredibly sophomoric, juvenile display by making scatological parodies of my name, George Knapp's, and Vicki Cooper's.

I, for one, will not be intimidated. ***UFO*** Magazine will continue to report the truest facts available, and what is nice about reporting facts is . . . they can be shown to everyone at any time.

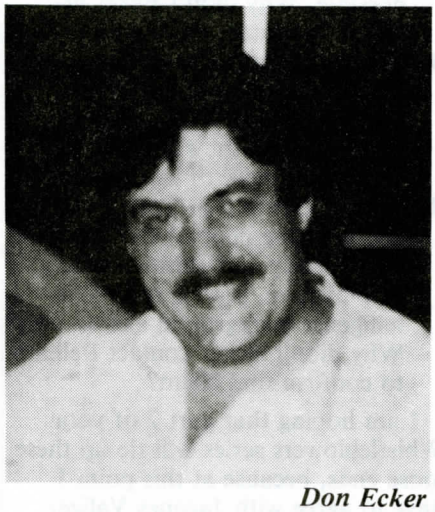
What is really sad about this story is the fact that I agree with much of what Cooper says when he is speaking about an erosion of Constitutional civil liberties. There are bizarre things afoot in the land, each day becomes more uncertain, and the public is simply not being told the true facts. However, one thing about the First Amendment, that although it guarantees freedom of speech, it does not allow the screaming of fire (with no fire) in a crowded theater. Cooper has been screaming fire on rainy days, and the problem with that is . . . What do you do when a real fire starts? Just like the kid who always cried wolf, no one came when the wolf finally showed up.

What it appears we are dealing with is demagoguery. Demagoguery in any form, with people following blindly, is always a dangerous development. Examine everyone's information, do not accept anything without checking it to the extent you are able, and then check it again from another angle, if possible.

UFO Magazine's opinion is that this field is fraught with enough dangers; tread carefully while walking down this path.

During this investigation ***UFO*** Magazine has found that much of Cooper's material is entirely fabricated, lifted from others' work, or facts he's selected and twisted to support his own story. Several times Cooper has told those who have disagreed with him or questioned his information, "I will crucify you . . ." At what point will someone allow a demagogue to intimidate him or her into silence? At what point will truth be the final casualty in a war of words with liars?

I will report the truth as long as we publish, and if necessary suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous slander. At some point the public will learn that each demagogue DOES have his 15 minutes in the sun, but then the public learns WHAT IS THE TRUTH. —*Don Ecker*



Don Ecker

tion for refusing to provide information that would validate his story.

Other unsubstantiated information from Cooper has apparently stimulated the fears and concerns of some people who have undergone the "abduction" experience. East coast researcher Marianne Shenefield, a nationally-known abductee who works with many abductees, called ***UFO*** on several occasions and expressed her own concern about what she heard while dealing with abduction victims. She told ***UFO***, "When Bill Cooper's paper 'The Secret Government' came out, I had abductees all over the U.S. calling me. Cooper said in his paper, and was claiming in his lectures, that the government was going to round up abductees and put them in concentration camps.

"I knew it was going too far when two abductees whom I have worked with were talking about committing suicide. They were terrified that the Army was going to come into their homes and take them off to concentration camps."

Cooper has stated a that he doesn't care who his information hurts or who it helps, but that he will continue to put it out there because people "deserve the truth."

In his paper "The Secret Government," Cooper falsely claimed that "Stanton Friedman has told me and many others that years ago he helped develop a nuclear reactor the size of a basketball, to power an aircraft. It was clean, turned out hydrogen, and worked like a dream". ***UFO*** called Friedman, a respected nuclear physicist and one of the top ufologists in the United States. "Cooper's claim is totally fraudulent," Friedman stated. "There is no truth to it at all." Friedman expressed bewilderment when asked why he thought Cooper would make that claim.

The 'Orange'

UFO Magazine was present in the fall of 1989 at a UFO conference hosted by the UFO Data Research and Intelligence Center, in Modesto, California. Bill Cooper was one of the speakers, and during the course of his lecture was asked by a member of the audience if he knew how many types of aliens were presently on earth. Cooper answered, "There

Continued on p. 46

To Some, It's A Debacle

The Gulf Breeze Debate

By Vicki Cooper

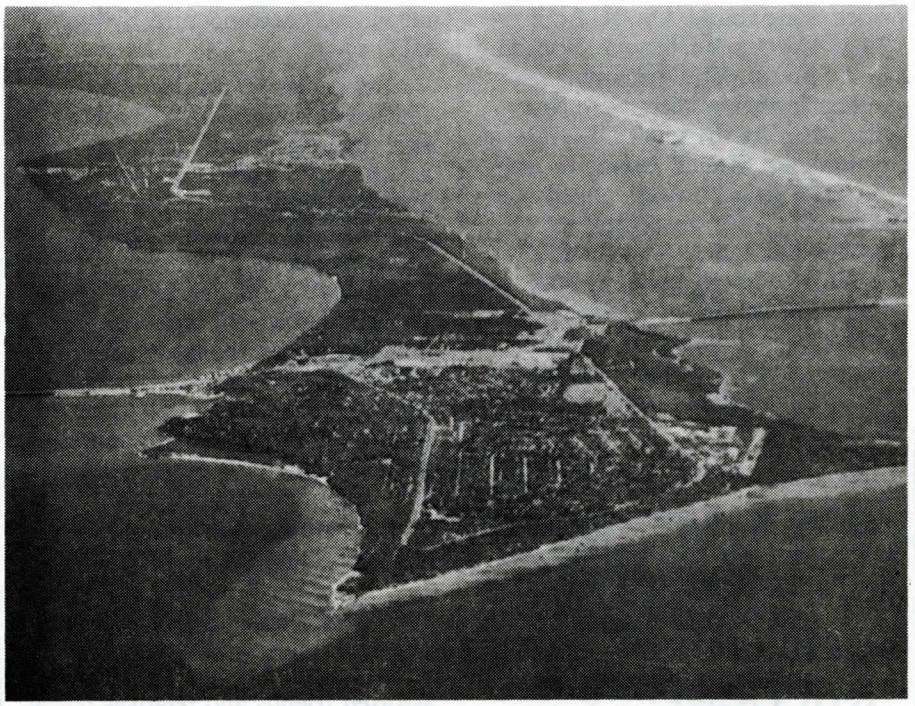
Only weeks ago, six young American soldiers jettisoned their belongings and surreptitiously left their West German intelligence unit to embark on a bizarre, self-styled religious mission, all apparently without the Army's blessing. The straying soldiers—all under 30—were arrested in Gulf Breeze, Florida, amidst rumors that UFOs figured into the group's personal ambitions to "destroy the Antichrist" (See accompanying story). Shortly thereafter the G.I.s were discharged from the Army.

Soldiers on a mission from God embody only the latest weird development in the recent history of Gulf Breeze, a small seaside community on Florida's panhandle: probably less than four square miles, population several thousand. Before the soldiers' arrival on the scene, by far the most notorious chapter in G.B.'s offbeat chronology has been the UFO sightings which have beset the small town since the mid-'80s, and which have centered around the claims of one "prominent" individual: builder Ed Walters, also known as Ed Hanson and, prior to coming out of the closet with his strange accounts, "Mr. Ed." (Hanson is his stepfather's name.)

Walters, a bearded, personable man with a ready laugh and at least the appearance of earnestness and sincerity, set in motion several tumultuous years of ufological controversy when he produced handfuls of Polaroid photographs beginning in November of 1987, arresting snapshots which show crystal-clear images of a crown-shaped craft suspended in the sky over his front yard and several other areas in the community.

Photos supported, disputed

The initial photographs—five at first slipped anonymously by Walters



AERIALS BY EARL CAUDELL

ON THE PENINSULA—Aerial view of Gulf Breeze. (Bridge from Pensacola, at right, links the town to mainland.)

PHOTO 23—From ***The Gulf Breeze Sightings****, a light-blasted close-up of the distinctive UFO.*

Update: 'The Gulf Breeze 6'

The six young G.I.s who flew their West German intelligence coop in July landed back in Gulf Breeze after their discharge from the Army. Three are still there, according to reports received at press time.

The six are refusing to discuss the high strangeness charges and rumors which have besieged them since being found AWOL from the 701st Military Intelligence Brigade in Augsburg, W. Germany.

The former soldiers were first discovered in the small UFO-strewn community of Gulf Breeze on July 14, after police officers pulled over their 1971 VW van because of a broken tail light.

What followed was a media-fanned onslaught of UFO-tinged weirdness and apparent spying secrets, which has only been exacerbated by the recent crisis in the Middle East.

'Extortion letter'

Shortly before granting the six general discharges from the Army, and after accusing them of the serious crime of desertion—the Pentagon received a reputed "extortion letter" threatening to expose apparent classified files and other sensitive information unless the soldiers were released. The letter, copies of which were sent to the media, was accompanied by two UFO photos.

Speculation about the entire affair has run rampant. Some have said the soldiers may have gotten advance information about a war brewing in the Middle East, and that the talk of cult involvement was a only a military-manufactured cover story. Gulf Breeze witness Ed Walters told of one rumor saying they had gotten the message that a war would start on Aug. 4, and the soldiers had to be in Gulf Breeze for a UFO event that was supposed to happen there on Aug. 6. "To my knowledge, nothing happened here on the sixth," Walters said. He has not been contacted by the soldiers.

Psychic messages

But testimony from the soldiers' assorted friends and relatives revealed what may have led to the group's bizarre oddyssey. Psychic messages were said to have been received by one of them, Vance A. Davis, 25. The psychic information, apparently a unique blend of science fiction and religious fundamentalism, contained a message that they had been specially chosen to have front row seats when aliens came down to reclaim earth. Other claims of an "End of the World" cult linked them to a possible mission to "destroy the Antichrist."

According to one report, the Pentagon at first denied knowing anything about the cult and then declared it had been under scrutiny for some time.

The six were assigned to a sensitive intelligence unit charged with providing American defense forces with secure communication. All held top-secret clearances.

Army Accuses 6 of Deserting Special Unit

From Times Wire Services

WASHINGTON—The Army charged six soldiers who left their military intelligence unit in West Germany with desertion and declined to comment on a report Thursday that the six had gone to Florida on a bizarre mission to "destroy the Antichrist."

The Army was continuing its counterintelligence investigation of the six, who were being held at Ft. Benning, Ga., but no evidence of espionage or U.S. security compromises was found in the early stages.

"They have all been charged with desertion," Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said.

The soldiers, arrested last Friday and Saturday in Gulf Breeze, Fla., told fellow soldiers before leaving West Germany that they were going to find and "destroy the Antichrist," who was believed to be in the Pensacola, Fla., area, the military newspaper Stars and Stripes reported Thursday.

The European edition of the paper, citing Army sources, said the soldiers destroyed or gave away their personal belongings before leaving their 701st Military

to the weekly Gulf Breeze Sentinel and later given a positive stamp of approval by ufology's premier photographic specialist, Dr. Bruce Maccabee, quickly served as an evidential rallying point for the world's largest UFO membership organization, Mutual UFO Network. In 1988, after a slow but sure tide of publicity began building around Walters' photos, MUFON's International Director Walt Andrus boldly concluded, "It is no longer necessary to preface the Gulf Breeze, FL case with a disclaimer that it is either one of the most incredible cases in UFO history or the most fantastically orchestrated hoax . . . the overwhelming evidence is in. Gulf Breeze is indeed one of the most incredible cases in modern UFO history."

From the beginning, a number of noted researchers have apparently supported the factualness of the case. Abduction researcher and author Budd Hopkins has voiced his belief in the photos' authenticity, suggesting that these first "really good UFO photos," which in effect constitute evidence of UFOs, would naturally be looked at skeptically since few could bring themselves to believe such unequivocal proof of the presence of an alien force. "The credibility of the pictures and the photographer should not be questioned," Hopkins told a reporter in 1988. "The fact that the photos are clear, detailed and contain so much information that can be validated shows that they are authentic."

Don Ware, MUFON's eastern regional director and a leading figure in MUFON's original investigation of the case, also backs what he calls "overwhelming evidence," and has openly suggested that Walters was encouraged by the aliens to take pictures of their vehicles. "I can't think of any reason why [the aliens] would let those pictures be taken, unless they wanted people to see them," Ware commented. Ware informed the MUFON audience in Pensacola this year about his unique notions of the "alien hybridization" purposes behind UFO phenomena.

Such obvious credulity on the part of ostensibly objective fellow researchers in MUFON— including the organization's top man—plus alleged indications of trickery in the Gulf Breeze photos, grated mightily on some MUFON members and directors, enough to engender a minor

PHOTO 19—One of Walters' most persuasive pictures, taken on County Road 191B, Jan. 12, 1988. Walters says when he took the 'road shot' the object was rocking back and forth just above the ground.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WILLIAM MORROW & CO.

shake-up in the organization, provoking several officials to resign from the organization. Strong, independent verification of the photographs was notably missing, according to one of the major disaffected, veteran ufologist Richard Hall, who says the Gulf Breeze affair was only one reason among several for his resignation.

"I consider myself an absolute, honest skeptic—in the original meaning of the word," Hall told ***UFO***. "I remain to be persuaded one way or the other, on the basis of evidence and solid investigation." Another MUFON drop-out, former Director of Education Marge Christensen, recently described the Gulf Breeze situation as "crashing down around investigators and proponents of the case." Like Hall, Christensen questions MUFON's investigative procedures, believing that the organization should have taken "a more cautious and objective stand . . . at least until all the evidence is in." Some newer evidence has thrown many more into the debunking camp, particularly the discovery of a UFO model in Walters' former house (see story, p. 33).

Smith allegations

To some, the most damning evidence to undermine Walters and his UFO claims was testimony given by Tom Smith, Jr., a young family acquaintance who continues to

PHOTO 11—Witness says he was pinned by a blue beam from the UFO.

PHOTO 18—This trio of objects, according to Walters, hovered above the trees behind his house, just before 6 a.m. on Dec. 23, 1987.

TERRY ECKER

WALTERS—'I look at [some news reports] as being anxious reporting without adequate investigation, not a credibility gap on me.'

Other matters used against Walters include his penchant for storytelling and allegedly playing photographic games with his son's young friends.

JOHN HICKS

TRIO OF NOTE—The Walters with Dr. Bruce Maccabee.

publicly assert that he was given photos by Walters, who then attempted to persuade him to submit the shots to the *Gulf Breeze Sentinel* as Smith's own, in order to shore up credibility of Walters' previous photos. Mayor Ed Gray, III and the town's police chief Jerry D. Brown interviewed Smith, whose testimony was published in full in local papers. Brown says that he was approached by Tom Smith, Sr., the boy's father, early in 1988.

"Tommy's father knew about it—his son had given photos to him and told him the whole story. He wanted my suggestion on how to handle it," Brown told ***UFO***. Smith, Jr. also alleges that he observed Walters faking photos and other evidence, and was told by him that the scheme was alternately done as a prank or for the money.

Another young man, however, now claims Tommy showed him the photos, presumably before Walters' photos first were published. As Jim Moseley reports, "'Rob' says that he was 'white with fear' when his friend Smith showed him the pictures, and that Smith's parents didn't give him (Smith, Jr.) any support in his understandable uneasiness after having snapped genuine pictures of a supposedly alien craft . . . on the other hand, Smith, Sr. tells us other former teenagers are ready to step forward and support his son's version of events." (By press time, none had done so, but Walters' supporters have pointed out the apparent ridiculousness of some of Smith's statements.) Besides the Smith disclosures, known debunkers of the case have eagerly pointed to the money issue as a way of discrediting Walters, making much of the fact that he was given a $200,000 advance for his recent book, ***The Gulf Breeze Sightings*** (a $20,000 fee from Morrow went to Bruce Maccabee for his efforts). Other personal matters which have been used against Walters include his penchant for storytelling and allegedly playing photographic games with young friends of son Danny, allegations which have been corroborated by several of the teenagers in question (See related stories).

During his own teen years, Walters was arrested and subsequently teen years, Walters was arrested and convicted on car theft and check forging charges, subsequently serving time in jail—more facts which the debunkers have used to their fullest advantage. Hall says MUFON suppressed this information in dealing with the case. For his part, Walters feels his behavior as a teenager has little to do with his life and behavior as an adult—including his UFO experiences. He has been granted a full pardon by the governor of Florida.

Few people have a handle on what really may be going on in Gulf Breeze, no matter how convinced they are about Walters' credibility or lack of it. What is certain is that UFO events of importance—to some, of monumental importance—have created a furor within the national ufological community. Peripheral news events such as the wayward G.I.s have caused that furor to spill over into the non-UFO community, creating a locus of public attention. Everyone awaits the final judgment.

Hoax or Persuasive Evidence?

UFO Photos In Focus

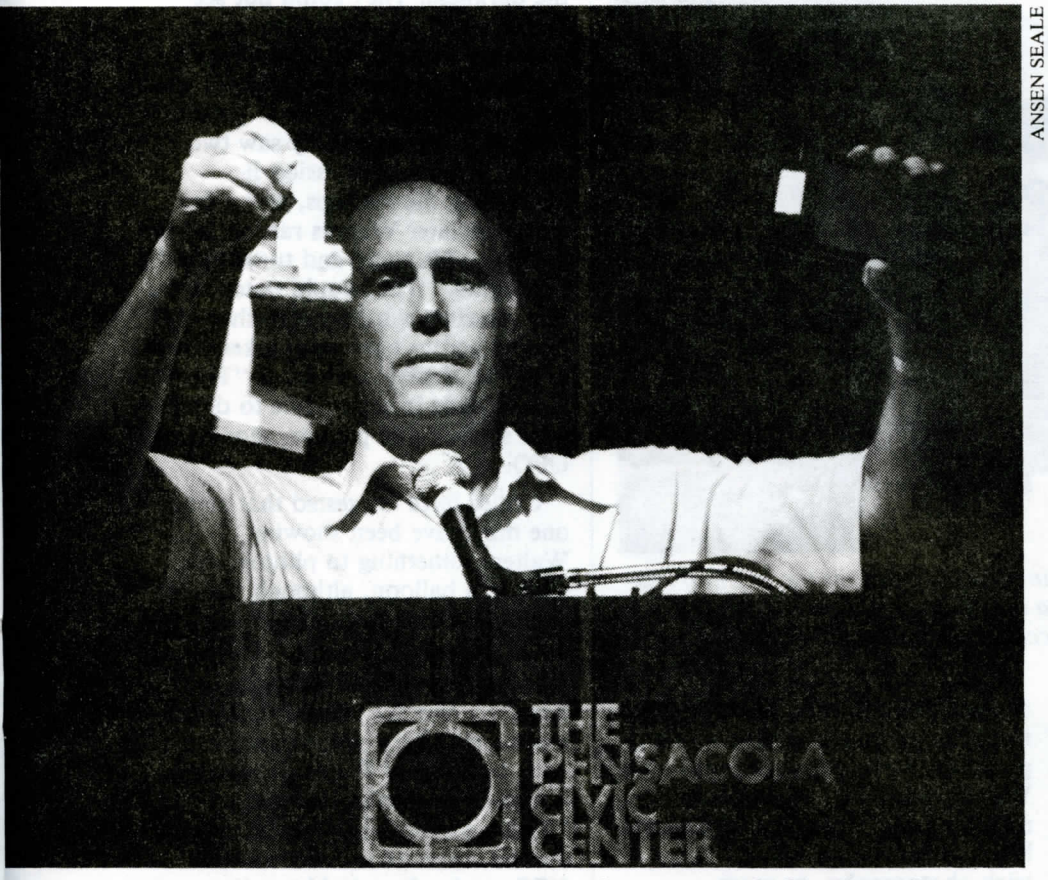
Though the Gulf Breeze matter is not considered exclusively a photographic case, Ed Walters' unmistakeable UFO craft photos have been the main focus of the investigation. They alone constitute, to some, the crux of persuasive evidence that Walters and the entire Gulf Breeze vicinity have been repeatedly exposed to alien visitations of the first order. In the opinion of others, however, Walters is a hoaxster of the first order.

Since Nov. 11, 1987, Walters has taken 46 pictures of possibly four different objects with five cameras. Because most of the resulting photos appear sharp and clear, in some instances are even thought to look "hokey," and other suspicious details surround the circumstances of Walters' photo sequences, he has been assailed with the debunking charges that he faked the photos. Though many other people have taken photos before, during and after the height of his sightings, only one taken by another witness seems to resemble the object in Walters' photos, according to investigator Rex Salisberry. Several witnesses, including Walters, also took videotapes of close encounters.

Critics have bandied about hoax and conspiracy theories. "You can't say there wasn't a conspiracy, but you can't establish a (firm) connection, either," says Bruce Maccabee, Naval optical physicist and the case's most visible photoanalyst. And if such a conspiracy is the answer, it would appear a large number of people would have to have been involved.

During his research, Maccabee examined several possible methods of hoaxing the photographs, and ultimately eliminated each as either readily detectable or impossible to carry out—at least by Walters alone, who appears to have neither the knowledge nor equipment necessary.

Nevertheless, some skeptics' theories on how it may have been accomplished have gained some attention.



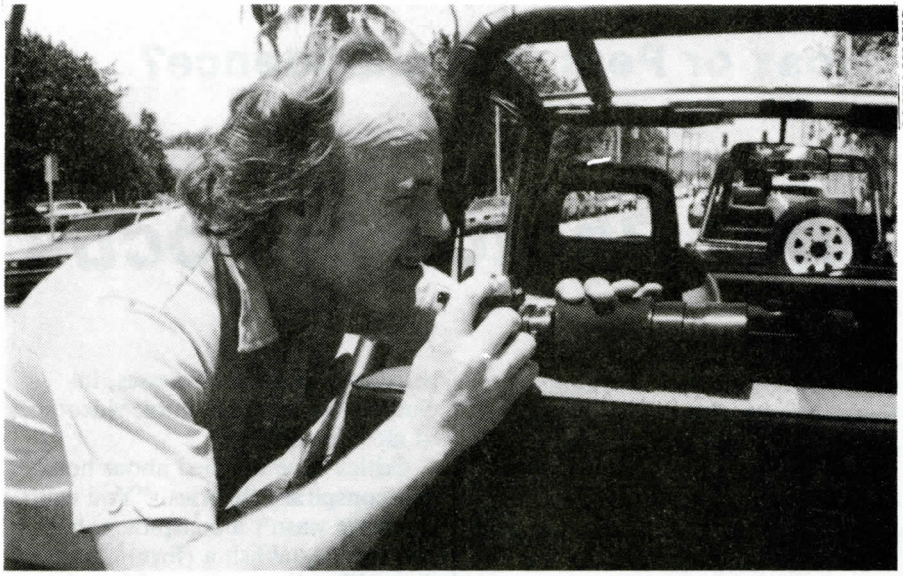
ANSEN SEALE

BRUCE'S TURN—Dr. Bruce Maccabee, principal photo investigator to examine and analyze Walters' pictures, demonstrates the workings of a Polaroid.

'Ghost Demon' photos

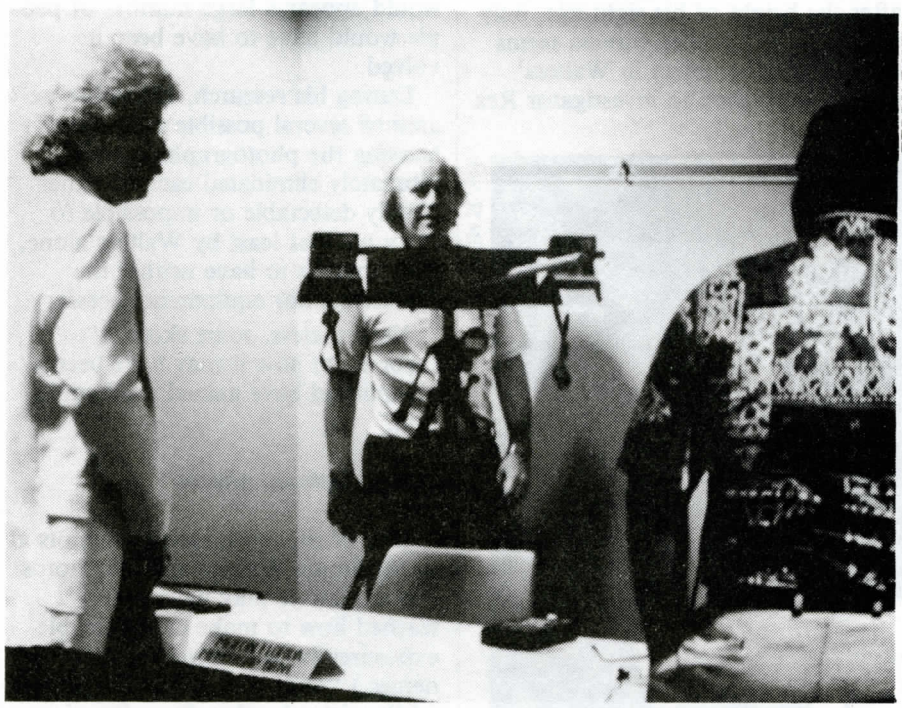
One of the more recent attempts at undermining Walters and his photos argues that he may have simply learned how to make clever double-exposures (which he vehemently denies.) "Gulf Breeze Double Exposed," written by Zan Overall and published by the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, is a compilation of complex details regarding some party photos Walters took before his UFO experiences began, coupled with the firsthand testimony of several young people who were present at those parties.

Overall, a longtime Fortean and UFO researcher in California, examined several Polaroid photos wherein young friends of Walters' son Danny were photographed beside odd, blurry figures which, according to testimony by several youngsters present, Walters said were "ghosts"



JOHN HICKS

LONG SHOT—Dr. Bruce Maccabee, optical physicist employed by the Naval Surface Weapons Laboratory, is the leading analyst to report on Walters' photo. His conclusion is that they show no evidence of hoaxing.



TERRY ECKER

IN STEREO—One of the few non-commercial displays in the MUFON exhibit room was the actual stereo camera set-up provided to Walters by MUFON, and monitored by Bruce Maccabee and other investigators.

which had attached themselves temporarily to their human subjects. According to those attending, these picture-taking sessions occurred in festive, late-night settings in which the teenagers took part in Walters' spooky, near-ritualistic preparations that "set the stage" for the ghost-demon photos. "He made it happen. Ed set up a seance-type situation and predicted the appearance of the 'ghosts,' " Overall alleges. The thrust of Overall's argument hinges on the allegation—supported by some teen witnesses—that Walters' predicted that "ghosts" might appear, which would indicate his premeditated grasp and usage of trick photography, or more specifically, possible creation of double-exposures. Overall directly quotes several teens (most of whom requested pseudonyms) describing Walters' inveterate tale-spinning and their own personal doubts and disbelief in his UFO experiences. Overall is more blunt: "He was not telling the truth when he said the ghost-demon images were accidental." (Walters disputes this. For his reply to these charges, see Q&A). The camera intially used by Walters—an older Polaroid model 108—is said to be ideally suited to some double-exposure tactics.

Closely monitored photos

One instance, which in Maccabee's assessment precludes any photographic manipulation with Polaroids, took place on March 17, 1988. Maccabee said that on that date, a witness named Peter Newman opened sealed Polaroid film boxes, loaded Walters' cameras and wrote down the serial numbers of the film packs. Newman was also keeping track of the film counter of each camera. Because of the cold weather, spectators left, but several were only pretending to leave and returned in the darkness. They could not see Walters because of bushes and a restroom facility, but according to Maccabee's report, were able to view the treetops above Walters' position. The witnesses reportedly saw two flashes in rapid succession illuminating the treetops, and a few moments later Walters ran out of the bushes to his truck and turned on the headlights. "The people watched the film develop, which means the photos had to have been taken shortly before," Maccabee said. "There was no time in the middle to diddle with stuff." The pictures showed a UFO.

Critics have suggested that someone may have been showing Walters something to photograph, such as a balloon, although weather conditions that night would rule that out.

Hoax theories still abound, however, and are backed up by prominent members of the community such as Chief of Police Brown, who is convinced Walters created a hoax. "There is simply too much evidence that he could do it," Brown told ***UFO***, saying how "old type" Polaroids can be made to turn out a form of double exposure when the shutter is cocked and snapped twice in succession.

Apparently concerted debunkers

targeting Walters utilized hoaxed photos themselves. Willy Smith, originally an investigator in the case, was implicated in an effort in which the image of a Gulf Breeze-type UFO appeared in a photograph of the Chrysler Building in New York. Smith said Ed Walters took the picture.

UFO investigator Antonio Huneeus and commercial photographer Manuel Fernandez came forward and stated for the record that Huneeus had asked Fernandez to make the photo for study and experimental purposes.

Though the old Polaroid started it all, Walters subsequently used other cameras to take his photos, including special equipment specially provided to him for the purposes of more effective analysis. A sealed NIMSLO camera with four lenses and a Self-Referencing Stereo (SRS) camera setup, consisting of two Sun 600 Polaroid cameras suspension-mounted to allow two feet between the lenses, were utilized to provide additional shots of the UFOs which Walters claims to have witnessed. "The debunkers somehow forget about these cameras when pointing to the model I am supposed to have used," he comments. —*V.C.*

Ed Note: Other photoanalysts who have looked over the Gulf Breeze photos were not available for comment prior to press time. They include Robert Nathan of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, and according to Walters, James Ebert, a photogrammetrist and forensics specialist from New Mexico who was hired by William Morrow and Co. to provide back-up analysis to Bruce Maccabee's work. For a more complete understanding of the entire photographic controversy, pro and con, readers are urged to read more detailed analytical accounts. Maccabee's reports can be obtained through the Fund for UFO Research, P.O. Box 277, Mt. Rainier, MD; Zan Overall's "Gulf Breeze Double Exposed" is available from the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, 2457 W. Peterson Dr., Chicago, IL 60659; a negative, debunking assessment can be obtained from the UNICAT Project, 1200 Murcott Ct., Longwood, FL 32779. UFO would like to thank John B. Hicks for his contribution to this article.

FLIGHT OF THE FABRICATOR—This photo, showing a G.B.-type UFO near Manhattan's Chrysler Building, was fabricated by New York commercial photographer Manuel Fernandez, at the direction of journalist Antonio Huneeus. At one point in the Gulf Breeze saga, however, a debunker allegedly claimed Walters was responsible for hoaxing it. Below, the Nimslo 3-D camera Walters used, obtained from MUFON corp. secretary and former National Security Agency engineer Tom Deuley.

'He was not telling the truth when he said the ghost-demon images were accidental,' Overall charges. But Walters insists that he was telling the truth.

From Skeptic to Celeb

Q&A: Ed Walters

The saga of Gulf Breeze would not be complete without the inside comments of the case's star witness. Ed Walters spoke to UFO by phone.

You preferred anonymity when you first came on the scene and were identified as "Mr. Ed." How did you get that moniker?

I went into the *Gulf Breeze Sentinel* and said, "I know this person, he's a real straight-shooter"—of course, talking about myself—and later Frances and I wrote a letter where I was pretending to be "Mr. X." At the end of the letter I said I'd given these photographs to "my friend Ed." It was kind of a mistake to put my name in there. Somehow or another, when it got out that I was the "friend," that I was Ed, I guess people thought they couldn't say just Ed . . . somebody said "Mr. Ed," and then the media picked up on it. It sounded cute because of the horse and all that kind of stuff (laughs).

Can you recreate your subjective feelings just after that first UFO encounter?

The encounter was something that rattled my thought processes, and for me the worse thing that could happen was something that would threaten my ability to work, support my family and take care of my business, threaten the respect of the community. This was all very intimidating to me, because I had always grown up thinking in the back of my mind that people who saw UFOs were, uh, a little flaky.

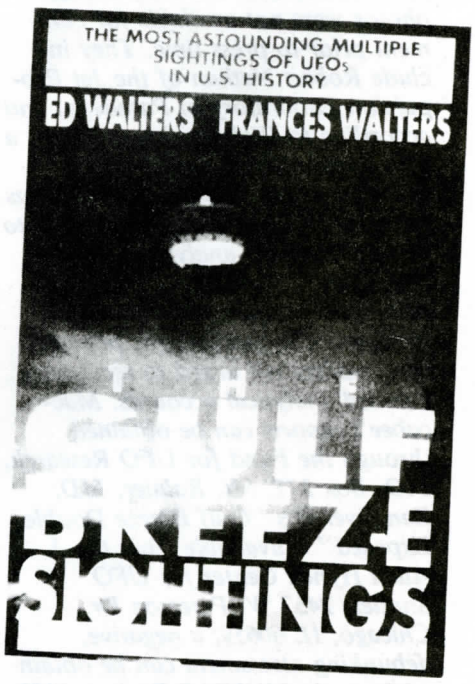
Suddenly I was having to deal with my own built-in skepticism and thoughts of what people might say about me—because that's probably what I would have said about them!

WRITING COUPLE—Frances and Ed Walters, authors of a book about profound UFO encounters. Both are in accord about the alleged UFO events, and consistently deny claims that they're perpetrating a hoax.

For me to jump out there and say, "Looky, looky, looky!"—it was impossible. For me to be known as a builder who sees UFOs, to me, would be devastating.

Did you talk to anyone?

We sat the kids down and explained to them what happened. It was a family unit type thing, not the same kind of threat as letting everybody in the community know. The worst thing, in my mind, was having people associate me with this phenomenon. Some people have asked, why didn't you call the police? Actually, I did think of calling the police when I first saw it, but it was moving across the sky so deliberately, not really fast, but fast enough that knowing police response times, it would have likely been gone by the time the police got there. Later I realized that was a smart thing for me to do, because police records are public records. If you want to be associated with UFO sightings, by all means, make a police report!



The Walters' book, published earlier this year by William Morrow & Co.

What else did the craft do that first time? Did it display any unusual behavior?

Given that your eyeballs are popping out of your head, and your knees are weak and that you're kind hyperventilating and saying, "What in the world is this?"—to me the whole thing was absolutely unusual. But looking in hindsight, something that floats along effortlessly across the rooftops of your neighborhood—that's pretty bizarre. But was it more unusual than all these other sightings? I'd have to say no.

Wasn't there a beam?

Yeah, the first sighting is when I ran out into the road after the fifth photograph and began to line myself up in its direction. It was coming straight towards me, and I was thinking that I would be able to take a photograph as it went right over head. That's when I began moving the camera. I got to the blacktop and was bringing the camera up to my face, and about that time I was engulfed with the blue light. I'd be tickled to death if there were no peripheral elements in these sightings; by peripheral elements I mean blue beams, alien sightings, telepathy—I'd be tickled if none of that even existed, because getting past the sighting of a UFO is difficult, but when you throw into the pot all these other peripheral things, it makes your eyeballs roll back in your head.

It messes up the credibility, because people have a hard enough time dealing with the existence of UFOs. It shouldn't, because once you realize there's something flying around that demonstrates tremendous flight capabilities, then it's fairly easy to get past the idea that the occupants have some other technologies that we don't have, i.e, blue beams.

What do you think is happening to you, and by extrapolation, a number of others?

At first I thought that it was absolutely beyond reason, not realizing that seven other people had seen it that same night coming in my direction. For all I knew, I was the only one, and no one else seemed to be reacting anywhere. As time went by,

SENTINEL
Perspective
VOLUME 28 NUMBER 49
NOVEMBER 19, 1987
SERVING BEAUTIFUL
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UFO Sighted Over Gulf Breeze
GULF BREEZE, FLA.
A SPACE ODYSSEY
Are there intelligent beings living beyond the stars? And, if so, what are they looking for in the Florida Panhandle? A Scientific Investigation.
BY DAVE BARRY
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VOLUME 30 NUMBER 28
Thursday, June 21, 1990
Who is telling the UFO truth?
Smith says he saw pictures faked
The Gulf Breeze UFO
A Personal Account of a True Story
An open letter to my friends and fellow residents of Gulf Breeze

Examples of some local print media approaches to Gulf Breeze.

people started to come forward and say they'd seen it. Many people came forward and said they'd seen the blue beams. I realized I wasn't alone, so it wasn't a matter of me trying to justify . . . am I the only one? I knew I wasn't just from all the news media reports.

Those seven other people you mention. Are they on the record?

Oh, yes. Charlie and Doris Somerby, Jeff Thompson and his son, Art Hufford and his wife. The Zammits and the blue beam. A pretty good number of people.

How did you find out about them?

As the news media covered the situation in the following weeks, people came forward.

How do you feel about the MUFON investigation?

Looking back over two years ago, who in the world had ever heard of a "MUFON?" What's a "MUFON?" When I saw Don Ware on television, on a talk show—and they were talking about the UFO sightings and about me, but they didn't know who I was at the time—he represented himself as the state Mutual UFO Network director, I made the incorrect assumption that that meant the Florida State network, director, based at the capital in Tallahassee. I thought, this is great! We have a branch of the government here to help us out. I didn't know the MUFON people were struggling with the same questions I'm struggling with. I assumed when I contacted them that they would come to the house and present all these answers...

Then you had virtually no experience with the phenomenon prior to November of 1987?

Absolutely none. There was not a piece of space in my brain dedicated to pondering UFOs.

But have you had experience with making photos as a joke? Have you ever made any double-exposures?

Never. Absolutely never. Some of the people who are really trying to debunk the Gulf Breeze things have distorted some wonderful parties at my house that we had for the local youth. I do a lot of youth work—-YMCA dances, treasure hunts—a lot of things for the kids around here. We don't even have a movie theater in town. With the experience of getting in trouble when I was a youth, well, "idle hands is the devil's workshop." With the success I've had, I've always been able to participate time-wise and money-wise in youth activities. Many, many weekends in a row, the kids would be over at my house, because I have a big house, rec room, pool, and I love being around them. Towards the end of the evening, we'd be sitting around, generally, waiting for parents to come pick them up, and we'd sometimes be sitting around telling ghost stories. What the kids would do is personalize them . . . with the (Polaroid) 108 camera, unbeknownst to me, if you push the shutter button down, the flash immediately goes off. Then as you lift your finger off the button, your finger actually controls the shutter; the shutter stays open as long as your finger is on the button. That's one reason we think there's been funny blurs on photos. On one particular night the debunkers have tried to depict some kind of conjuring of demons.

Have you ever consciously done this?

No, no. Sure, I told ghost stories. I loved it.

According to one report, you supposedly once took the kids on an overnight camping trip, and had planted electronic devices in the woods to enhance the effect of the ghost stories . . .

Absolutely not true. Never happened. But I want to clear up this allegation about me supposedly predicting a ghost was going to appear over these girls one time. One of the games we played was this thing where you can take this old camera and turn it to an infinity focus, or have it focus like 3 feet away. So you can stand 3-4 feet away from somebody and put the camera on infinity, and what happens is that the photo is blurry, but their eyes turn white or red. If you do it with a camera that you can make out-of-focus, it really accentuates this effect. What we did, I said, "Oooh, yeah, there's a ghost in here, there's a ghost in here! Let's take some pictures and maybe they'll show up in them!"

You gotta remember—it's 12 o'clock at night, the kids have been playing all day long. Anything they're doing is either funny or scary, because at that time of night they're all kind of slap happy.

If you're sitting around at midnight, waiting on the parents to pick 'em up and say "oooh, there's a ghost in here," then take the ol' camera, turn the button to infinity, and take some (regular) pictures of the kids, and then somewhere along the line take the camera and turn in on to infinity so that one of them ends up has these red or white eyes, then suddenly they go "ooooh, ooh, you got the ghost in you!" I did say, maybe there's a ghost in here, a ghost in you, knowing that various times in the photographing, I was going to turn this thing and make somebody have these white eyes. I did say, "Oh, there's a ghost in the room . . ." but I never said that I predicted there'd be a ghost hovering over your shoulder. That a bunch of crap. There's a blurry image in one photo that caused some controversy. I remember saying that "there's a ghost gonna be in the room, and maybe it's going to be in you," and I had to say "in you," 'cause when you do the whole thing that makes their eyes turn white, that's the whole point. What actually turned out on one of these photographs was even more interesting than making their eyes turn white, because here's this blurry looking thing, and it's over a girl's shoulder, and suddenly all of them look at that and say, "ooooh, isn't that spooky?" What am I going to do? Say "don't worry, kids, that's just a reflection off the glass door?" I'm not going to say that. I'm going to play along.

It's also been reported that you visited city hall; the implication was that you were there to change evidence related to the floorplan which was allegedly part of the model UFO recently found and which is alleged as evidence of your faking the UFOs.

After this model was found, I

went down the next day to the *Pensacola News Journal,* with my Polaroid camera, and asked if I could examine the model and photograph it. They wouldn't let me have it. I said, "Wait a minute. You're running a headline here insinuating that this is something that I took photographs of and I certainly have a right to see it." But they wouldn't let me have it. Days went by, and the media here jumped on it, but even they couldn't see it. They got the information and almost like a day later ran a front page story. I think they immediately found out it was bogus and were trying to figure out how to cover their butts; not only would they not let me see it. All of the hierarchy—and you can check this—all of the newspeople responsible at the *News Journal* were, according to the secretary, "on retreat." No one was available to talk to! Later we discovered that nobody was on retreat; they were just having meetings trying to decide what to do. Actually, I think they were trying to decide if I was going to sue them or not.

How did the paper find out about the model?

I was not born under a cabbage leaf! You will never be able to convince me that a year and a half after I moved out of the house, cleaned everything, even the attic, took everything out, that the newspaper guy didn't get a tip that there was a model in the house. There's just no way that he could have walked up to the new owners out of the blue and ask, "Do you have a model?"

And your contentions about the model?

There are two very strong pieces of evidence that clearly show that I'm not involved with that model. All you have to do is take the photograph of that model, and put it up next to the photograph in the book—you can look at it and see immediately that the size proportion is wrong. The photograph in the book is more of a crown shape. You notice quickly that there is only one row of "portholes" on the model, but there are two rows—distinct, big black squares—on the UFOs in the book. It's not what we saw flying around in the sky and it's not what I photographed. Then, once we wrestled the model away from the *Journal* and got it back in the hands of the people who own it, who are the people at my old house, then I was allowed to come down and take a look at it. Once we started looking at it, I saw that it ought to be enough for me to go to the plans and figure out what house this is... every house that I build is different. The plans used in the model were created two years after I started photographing UFOs in Gulf Breeze.

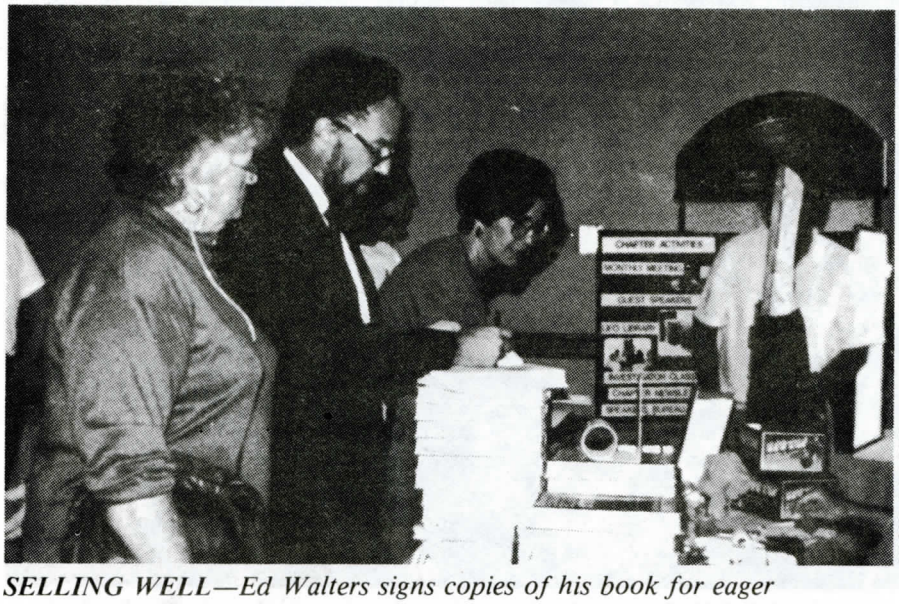
STATESIDE RING—Nearly identical to the strange rings in England which have been puzzling investigators, this mystery circle in Gulf Breeze' Shoreline Park was considered additional evidence in MUFON's investigation of the Walters case.

And you're claiming also to have had a good deal of first-hand interaction with the UFO creatures. Would you like to recap that experience?

Dec. 2, 1987, at 3 o'clock in the

ANSEL SEALE

ED & FRANCES—The Walters presented their case to the large MUFON crowd gathered at the Pensacola Civic Center.



VICKI COOPER

SELLING WELL—Ed Walters signs copies of his book for eager customers at the MUFON exhibit room.

morning was the first time that my wife actually saw the UFOs. It was a revelation of course to her, because up until that point it was me just telling her about it. Finally she got to see it with her own eyes. Half an hour later, after this thing had zipped away, we heard our little dog bark one time. I had not managed to get back to sleep, although I was trying to. I heard the dog bark about 3:30 and thought possibly the craft might be back outside. I quickly went over to the French door and snatched up the blind, and as I did that, the cord is pulled down. My body was leaning down a little bit, and about 12 inches or so on the other side of the glass was a shadowy figure. It could have been anything and it would have scared me, because you're not expecting something to be there looking at you right back in the face! I tumbled backward, flailing and yelling, and Frances was reacting, looking—it was a tremendous event, not a very long event. Time kind of gets suspended when you experience something like that.

What did the figure look like?

People have asked for a exact description of what I saw. I tried to draw what I saw, but I really couldn't and my drawing was even deceiving, because when you draw something, you're drawing it with a pencil and it makes it look like it has a very defined edge, whereas in the night time, looking at a shadowy figure that is backlit—there were lights from the high school parking lot—it was very obscured. I reported that it kind of had a shadowy box thing on its front. I could indeed see these big, black eyes behind some kind of helmet looking device, but I can't describe it precisely. It turned and went to my right. The end result was this craft zipping out over the high school soccer field and shooting this beam down on to the ground. In my heart of hearts, I believe that it was picking up the little being that was on the porch.

Frances was so close to it. Weren't you concerned?

When you read that chapter, you will see a tremendous amount of detail going on, with an exchange back and forth; me looking at it, it looking at me, me looking at Frances, etc., kind of this triangle of looking! . . . I've been telling people all this time, if you want to believe me, fine, God bless you, and if you don't want to believe me, God bless you too. Because I'm just telling you what I saw. I have never said there were aliens from planet "X, Y or Z" visiting Gulf Breeze. I have always said there is something there, I've seen it, I and my neighbors have seen it. For all I know, it's some strange phenomenon or anomaly that is an earthly situation.

Has anyone else taken such clear photographs?

Nobody has taken photographs this close. The other photographs have been from 500 feet, 1,000 feet, 2,000 feet. One of mine, for example is 200 feet away.

Do you feel you were "chosen?"

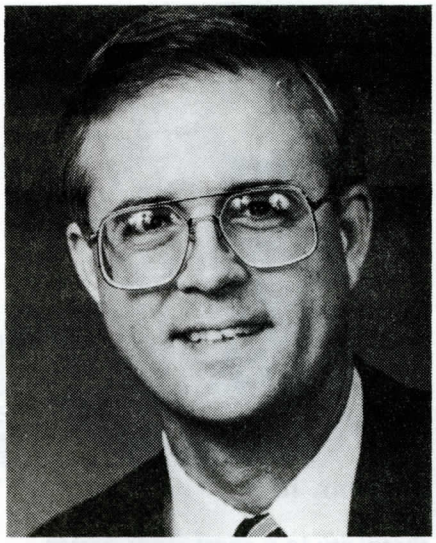
No. I really don't think that; I think I was probably in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Art Hufford

Not Only 'Mr. Ed'...

Sometimes it may seem that Ed Walters has a monopoly on the role of "Gulf Breeze UFO Witness." Skeptics are then quick to point out that of the many additional UFO witnesses which have reported sightings around Gulf Breeze and Pensacola, few have described craft identical to those in Walters' photographs.

But those same skeptics often fail to acknowledge the exceptions. A star corroborating witness and remarkable exception is Art Hufford, 48, a Pensacola resident of seemingly impeccable character. Hufford, on the boards of several local community and service organizations, is a technical supervisor of a major chemical company, an elder in his church and, he will offer, a 32nd degree Mason.



Art Hufford

"Prior to November of 1987, I had virtually no interest in the UFO phenomenon at all," Hufford says. "I might have said, 'it's possible,' but I hadn't read or studied anything related to the subject."

Then, within the time frame that Walters began taking his photos, Hufford and his wife were driving on Bayou Blvd. in Pensacola during the late afternoon, on their way home, when an unusual object caught their attention. "We're riding along, and all of a sudden I noticed hovering above the trees, to the left of the road, this object, this craft," Hufford recalls. "It was bright, oval in shape with a light on top and some sort of 'shroud' or projection on the bottom." The Huffords tried to keep the object in view as long as it took them to drive two or three city blocks.

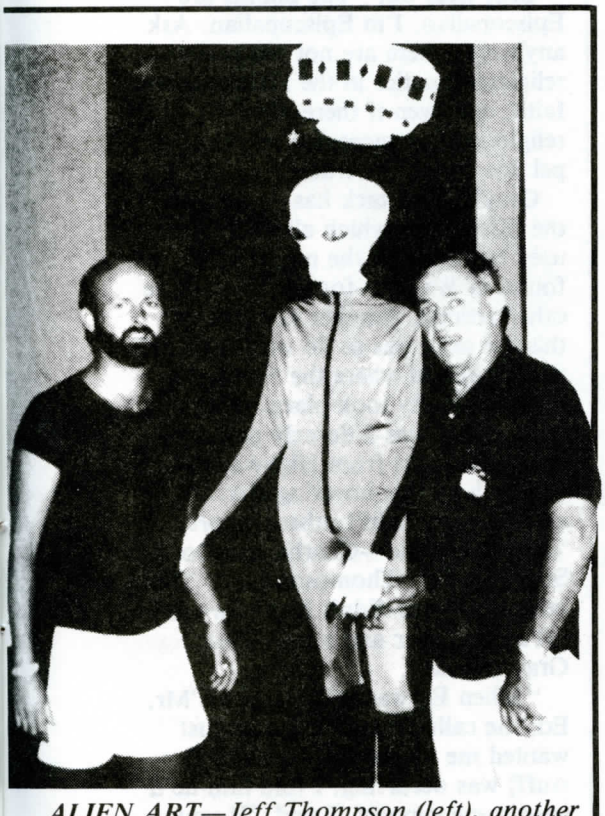
There were no windows or portholes on the thing, Hufford says, but then, "we weren't thinking about being asked questions later on!" His subsequent thoughts? "Something Billy Bob might see out on the river after drinking too many beers," Hufford jokes. "My first thought was just to forget about it. It was when Ed's photos were published—I think I saw them in the paper the first weekend in December (1987)—that my interest perked up. I saw the exact same thing . . ."

Hufford figures there were five different witnesses besides Walters who saw the same odd craft on or around Nov. 11, 1987, the date of Walters' first impactful photos. He names Charlie and Doris Somerby, Jeff Thompson, Fenner and Shirley McConnell. In his mind, it meant that "something's going on. This is not one guy out taking trick photography."

Hufford and others have read and noted the different types of news coverage given the Gulf Breeze events, observing that the *Gulf Breeze Sentinel* has given full page attention to the case, while the *Pensacola News Journal* is alleged to be ignorant except when some outstanding debunking can be done. "It's as if their attitude, like others, is 'The Gulf Breeze photos are obviously a hoax, so because of that I just won't look at them.'. . . but knowing what I saw was the same as what Ed Walters saw, the hoax stuff doesn't compute."

Chiming in with the prevailing assumption of many others connected with this case, Hufford openly asserts his belief that the craft are piloted by extraterrestrial life forms. "I guess I basically came to the conclusion that 'UFOs are real.' I don't think they are government experiments.

". . . Particularly with these people who are coming out with abduction accounts," he adds. "Yes, I do believe the ET hypothesis." Since 1987, Hufford has not had any additional sightings of that uniquely-shaped object which has come to be identified as the Gulf Breeze UFO.



ALIEN ART—Jeff Thompson (left), another witness to the 'Gulf Breeze UFO,' makes life-sized latex alien masks and models. Ufologist George Fawcett of North Carolina stands by.

Gulf Breeze Sightings

Ed Gray, III

And the Mayor Says...

Another prominent citizen of Gulf Breeze isn't at all encouraged by the UFOs flying all over his section of the Panhandle. He'll admit that in a town surrounded by military installations, a UFO is no big thing, of course, but in the case of the Ed Walters UFOs, he's firmly convinced the witness is putting one over on everybody.

In the past, Ed Gray—in his sixth year serving as mayor of Gulf Breeze—readily congratulated Walters for going beyond the call of duty in actively supporting community events. But now, Gray suggests, the fix is in: for all his civic-mindedness, Walters apparently has had no compunctions about pulling off the ultimate prank—which one local teenager claims Walters had once boasted he would do.

"You have to understand this individual, what makes him tick," Gray says, "and how much pleasure he gets out of people getting involved in the activities he puts forth. If you don't understand that mental drive of Ed's, the psychological drive of his, then it's hard to understand how this thing was pulled off." The late professional psychologist and hypnotist Dan Overlade at one time subjected Walters to a battery of psychological tests, and in a subsequent statement declared that he was unable to find anything out of the ordinary about Walters' mentality. Gray doesn't agree, thinking that Walters' exceptional smarts and creativity are what have contributed to the "hoax" he's worked out. "His IQ has got to be pushing 125, maybe 175," Gray said. He's very clever and coy, and his ability to formulate ideas is unmatched."

Gray contends, on the strength of a witness report, that a few years back Walters took some of his son's friends out on a camping trip, during which strange sounds started coming out of the night, in spooky synchronicity to a ghost story session. Turns out Walters had planted some electronic devices in the surrounding woods (Walters denies this report). And, during Gulf Breeze's Silver Anniversary Festival in 1986, Walters conceived a particularly tough treasure hunt that had literally hundreds of people frantically out following the clues which were periodically published in the *Gulf Breeze Sentinel*. That the hunt was so successful and attracted such attention gave Ed a real charge, Gray stressed. "He was beside himself. . . like a kid in a candy store."

TERRY ECKER

Ed Gray, III

So this shows up Ed to be the charlatan some think he is? Well, Gray also puts great store in the claims of young Tommy Smith, who recently came forward admitting that he helped Walters hoax photos. "Tommy has no reason to lie about this," Gray states. "His parents came forward and verified what their son said—they knew about it 2½ years ago, but elected not to come forward, thinking that it would all die. . ."

On the contrary. As time went on, the Gulf Breeze UFO case waxed livelier and livelier, and the allegations against Walters stickier and stickier. So Walters countered, on television, by suggesting that the Smiths were a devout fundamentalist family and that UFOs and aliens were unsavory ideas—Christianity-wise. It was further suggested that the hoaxed photos Tommy said Walters told him he should submit to the paper as his own, to shore up Walters' own faked photos, were actually real photos of UFOs that Tommy himself took, but that Tommy's parents didn't cotton to the idea of real UFO photos . . . and then...

Charges. Counter-charges. Attacks. Recriminations. Now Walters refuses to speculate on what motivates the Smiths or anyone else who's trying to descredit him.

Gray goes on, "The Smiths are Episcopalian. I'm Episcopalian. Ask anybody—there are not too many religious fanatics in the Episcopalian faith, and even if there were, religious fundamentalist beliefs compel you to tell the truth!"

Gray's latest tack has to do with the floor plans which allegedly were used to construct the model UFO found in Walters' former house, (see other article). Another key part of this, he says, has to do with Ed's old neighborhood where the first sightings reportedly took place. Gray submits, "This was a densely populated area, 200 yards from Highway 98!

"With all this hovering aircraft around, why didn't others report 'em?" They did—Charlie and Doris Somerby, Jeff Thompson . . . "The other witnesses didn't come forward 'til a year, year and a half later," Gray counters.

"When Ed was still 'Jim,' or 'Mr. Ed,' he called me and said he just wanted me to know all this [UFO stuff] was occurring. I told him he'd need some support. I said, 'If you have another sighting, call me.' "

The mayor's face took on a somber look. "He didn't," Gray said. —*V.C.*

Dubunkers Have 'Field Day'

The UFO Model

When it rains, it pours. At least that may have been how Ed Walters felt when he first heard the news that a model UFO made of Styrofoam plates, looking very like the object in his famous photos, was discovered in the house he used to live in.

Because the next thing you know, photos and stories about the model were plastered all over the papers and on TV, and Tommy Smith is claiming that Ed tried to get him to be part of the hoax. And the merry crew of Ed debunkers hanging around had a regular field day.

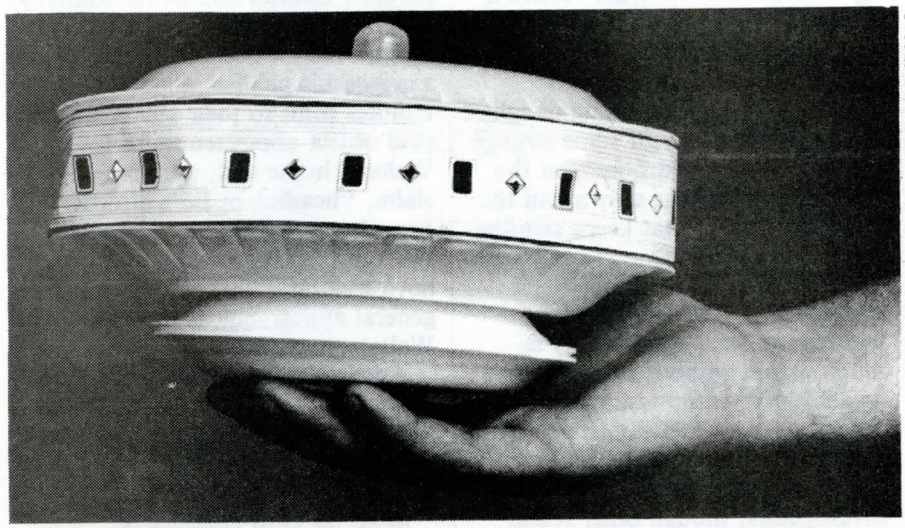
It started when the current resident of Ed's former house on Silverthorn Drive—a medium-sized home surrounded by well-kept shrubbery—went into the attic to turn off the water before installing an ice machine.

There, behind some insulation he was poking under while looking for the water pipe, was the model. The item apparently didn't seem important enough to the discoverer to report. But somehow it got into the hands of Craig Myers, reporter for the *Pensacola News Journal*. Walters thinks the reporter was tipped; the implication being that the model was planted inside the house specifically to discredit him.

At first glance, it appears the model could have been the UFO Walters has apparently photographed again and again. It has that right squat, multi-layered look, and even has the little round knob thingie on top.

One vs. two rows

But a closer look—and this is something Walters is happy to point out again and again—turns up some clear discrepancies with Walters' more prominent images of UFOs, which, unlike the model, have two rows of windows instead of one.



COURTESY PENSACOLA NEWS JOURNAL

SHOW AND TELL—Several Styrofoam plates were used to make this model UFO which was found in Walters' old house, and which has ignited a conflagration of charges and countercharges about UFO hoaxes.

(Pass this fact by one of the rigorous skeptics, and he or she might say, "Well, Ed used more than one model.")

Ah, but there's more! The inside of the model contained some drafting paper of a floorplan for a house that Walters built. But not just any ol' Ed Walters house; this one was made in 1989—two solid years after Walters began his epic UFO experiences. Ergo, Ed could not possibly have been the creator of this model. Double ergo, the foam plate model itself must have been hoaxed and planted in the house to throw an exceedingly bad light on Ed.

At this point, the sworn statements are piling up. Walters signed one denying that he knew anything about this model. The homeowner, Mr. Menzer, swore he doesn't know who made the model. A man named Lynn Thomas also put it in writing that the floorplan was, indeed, of the house that Walters built for him in 1989.

In his usual fashion when it comes to these things, Mayor Ed Gray, III is having none of it. Talk about discrepancies—Gray turned up some interesting ones in the whole floorplan explanation, and even alludes to a time when it appears Walters may have made a visit to City Hall to alter evidence.

Slab happy

But that's a long, involved story having to do with whether or not there was one house and only one house that was designed with 1740 feet of living area and 2393 feet of slab area.

Meanwhile, Mark Curtis went on national television and demonstrated the ease with which small UFO models and double exposures can some very nifty photos make.

The Gulf Breeze UFO model (now back in the hands of its rightful owner, Menzer) may be the most profoundly important set of Styrofoam plates ufology has ever seen. But once again, we are left with the only possible explanation when it comes to both the model and the Gulf Breeze UFOs:

Only the builder knows for sure.

Gulf Breeze Sightings

'Missing Time' Cases, Etc.

Back-Up Testimony

Investigator Don Ware reveals a few little known facts about the Gulf Breeze UFO case. Apparently one of Walters' former neighbors saw a UFO, and her young daughter has talked fearfully of some strange creatures in her bedroom. But the world seems to hear only about the wild controversy that keeps swirling around Ed Walters.

Of themselves, the photos and testimony of Gulf Breeze' star witness wouldn't carry nearly as much weight without the testimony of additional witnesses, according to those closest to the case. Early on, witness corroboration of Walters' claims was uncovered by MUFON investigators, though other researchers poo-pooh that. When *Gulf Breeze Sentinel* editor Duane Cook was about to publish Ed's first photos, he showed them to his parents, Charles and Doris Somerby. The couple asked for more information on the UFOs, and found Ed had snapped his pictures about 15 minutes prior to their seeing an identical object about ten miles from Walters' home and, the Somerbys claim, "heading in Ed's direction." Fennel and Shirley McConnell are two other witnesses who claim to have seen an object of the same general appearance as the ones Walters photographed.

Another witness, Billie Zammit, appears to have observed craft and the "blue beam" less than 24 hours before Walters' Nov. 11, 1987 sighting.

Most back-up evidence is testimonial. The latest count of UFO observations accrued by MUFON comes from Salisberry, who says that 268 people have reported a total of 314 objects. As for photo support, two anonymous individuals ("Believer Bill" and "Jane") gave the *Sentinel* pictures nearly identical to Ed's. Naturally, debunkers have said that since the photographers can't be indentified, those photos are no more valuable than . . . more photos from Walters! (According to one report, "Bill" is actually Ray Griffin, a man who has appeared on the scene during other UFO cases and about whom little is known by *UFO* Magazine.)

TERRY ECKER

MUFON SLEUTH—Former military man Rex Salisberry (left) has been responsible for accruing data on many local UFO cases, including Ed Walters' UFO claims, and has catalogued over 300 individual sightings.

'Bizarre things'

Another aspect to the Gulf Breeze affair, which researchers have handled gingerly and debunkers have used, is Walters and others' claims of missing time experiences. (Walters' first such experience was on May 1, 1988, he says.) Many observers automatically have placed these incidents in the category of alien abduction. Walters now admits that "bizarre things" came up from his subconscious during hypnotic regressions (conducted by the late Dan Overlade), but adds, "It's only been within the last six months that I've been able to even say the word 'abduction,' because I didn't think it was relevant." Yet details of Walters' alleged alien contact include his testimony of hearing a strange sound in his head just prior to seeing and photographing UFOs, of hearing unusual voices, even in foreign tongues, during an initial encounter—once passing a crisp warning that photography was not allowed!—and, of course, a close encounter with a "shadowy figure" that, when sketched by Walters, appears to be very like the standard "grey."

In his paper for the recent MUFON conference, Budd Hopkins also details additional cases of apparent abduction which have come out of the Gulf Breeze vicinity. Of

one, Hopkins writes: ". . . there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that this particular Gulf Breeze resident was abducted, taken aboard a UFO, examined and returned in the midst of the sighting wave detailed in Ed and Frances Walters' landmark new book."

The ocean of details and shrill research conflicts engulfing Gulf Breeze have given the case a confusing depth and complexity unmatched by any other case in recent UFO history. Many, however, have likened Gulf Breeze events to the Billy Meier experiences, another hotly-disputed UFO case in which a one-armed Swiss farmer was alone in catching classical-looking UFOs in crystal clear photos, and on film, where the objects danced around trees and wobbled precariously like a top on the end of a string. Neither all of Meier's photos nor film have been absolutely eliminated as hoaxes by everyone, though MUFON officially rejects the case on those grounds.

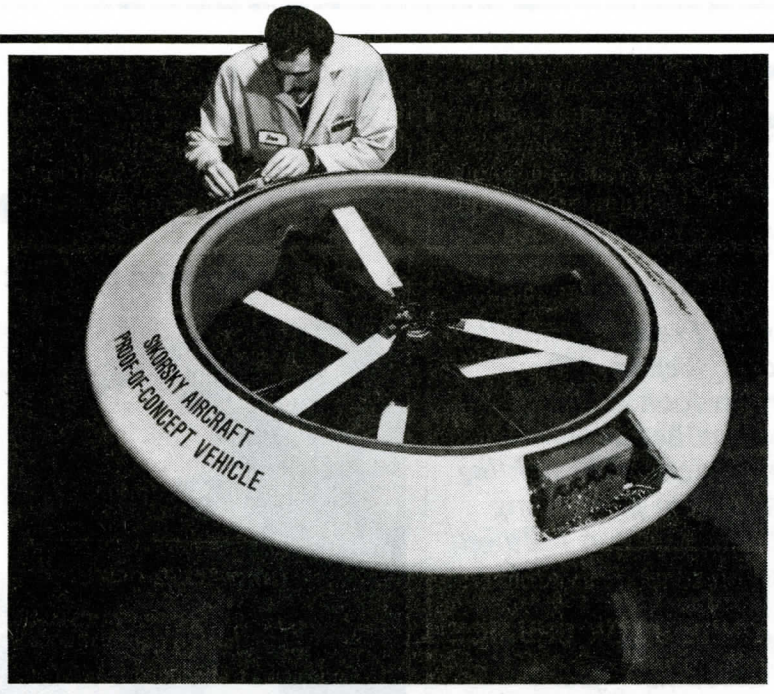
According to Ware, Ed Walters has two qualities which make him a better witness than Meier: "He has credibility," Ware said, "and the fortitude needed to stand up against the debunkers."

Details in the behemoth tangle of data related to Walters lead into the near-arcane—even revealing touches of the occult. A decidedly unpopular sentiment along those lines comes from Michael Wales, a recently-arrived Gulf Breeze resident who has stirred the case's already troubled waters. "I think we're looking at extraterrestrial, interdimensional, angelic warfare," he says.

Wales, who's been ridiculed and virtually blackballed by others involved with the case, also claims, "Ed has not told the truth on every count," and that Walters' story may be hiding what is really a complex cover-up operation.

Covering up what? Wales hypothesizes that there may be another local abduction for which the Walters brouhaha is, for inexplicable reasons, being used as a cover and diversion. Most researchers dismiss Wales, and consider his claims nonsense.

But perhaps Wales has a point. "Any major UFO sighting has to be surveilled and debunked," he concluded matter-of-factly, shortly before *UFO* Magazine closed the book on Gulf Breeze ... at least for the time being. —*V.C.*



***SLICK DISC**—Sikorsky Aircraft's West Palm Beach facility served as testing grounds for its first little hovering UAV, the CYPHER, developed for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Sikorsky lists the CYPHER's potential military applications as ground and naval surveillance, communications relay and countermeasures missions. Counter-narcotics, search and rescue, and law enforcement are among non-defense uses named.*

Gulf Breeze UFOs: Military Craft?

Strange things fly around the skies over Gulf Breeze and Pensacola, but they're usually not alien UFOs.

The area, surrounded by five major military bases including the Pensacola Naval Air Station, Eglin Air Force Base and the Strategic Armament Testing Center, has one of the highest proportions of military and civilian aircraft activity of anywhere in the country.

"The bombs bursting in air" could conceivably be a daily occurrence around the neighborhood, since high explosives are reportedly tested thereabouts. Sources also say all Naval air pilots have to do their thing at Pensacola during their training phase. Flight testing of new and innovative craft, of course, is a solid bet.

Flying discs?

Remotely piloted vehicles (RPVs), or unmanned air vehicles (UAVs), come in some fascinating shapes and sizes (see photo).

And according to 1987 testimony by Florida's Regional Customs Commissioner before a Senate hearing on narcotics control, the budget for interdiction vehicles, both air and sea, has allowed the launch of many new ways of keeping an eye on drug smugglers.

But what does that have to do with Gulf Breeze? Maybe nothing.

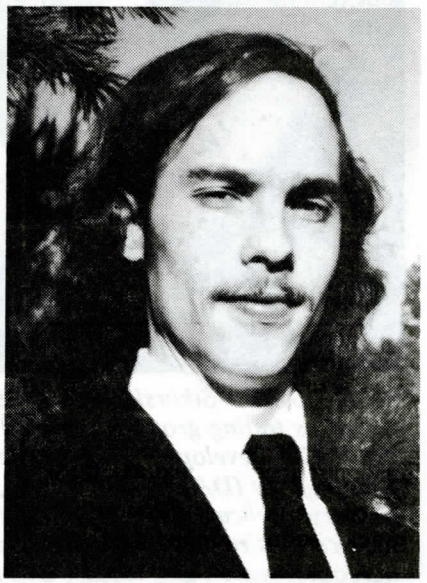
Then again, part of an appropriations bill went to the purchase of aerostats and the installation of eight land-based radars which were either on the Eastern Gulf Coast or Florida's west coast.

Walters and other Gulf Breeze witnesses may have to contend with blue beams, but "aliens" have their own challenges from the extensive air and land assets coordinated by the Blue Lighting Operational Command Center—which is what they named the agency which was set up in 1986 to coordinate it all.

CONTACTEE: FIRSTHAND

By Preston Dennett

Californian Preston Dennett was once a skeptic. His first serious look at the UFO phenomenon began with the much-publicized 1986 sighting by a JAL cargo pilot flying over Alaska. Preston followed up by reading several UFO books. But it wasn't until he began collecting first-hand witness accounts—'just to convince myself,' he says—that his conviction about the reality of UFOs really took. Following is one of those stories.



Preston Dennett

In 1975, the Robinson family, as I shall call them, saw a UFO while staying at their grandmother's cabin located in Cedar Pines Park, just north of San Bernardino, California. Mrs. Robinson, a woman in her '50s, was the first to notice that something strange was in the sky. Her description: "It had to be maybe ten miles away, because it wasn't that big. But it had erratic movement, so you could see it in the sky. It would hover and then it would just go—shoom! shoom! shoom!

"I mean things, stars, don't go all over the place. And helicopters don't go all over the place, they don't move erratically. They don't go quickly from one side to another and then shoot up, and then come down at an angle, and do all that in such fast—like a faster-than-sound movement. And planes fly straight. It was bright, and had a lot of bright lights on it. It was round-like." Mrs. Robinson has two daughters, both of whom were there that night. They were in a separate cabin with their cousin of the same age. Mrs. Robinson's younger daughter, whom I shall call Kelly, is the only one who remembers seeing a UFO.

"That was with my sister, my cousin and I," Kelly said. "We thought we saw [a UFO] because it was moving in different patterns, not like a plane. But it was a regular light—just one lighted thing."

The Robinsons were impressed with the sighting, and considered themselves lucky to have seen something so strange. They had no idea that this simple sighting marked the beginning of a series of sightings which would escalate into a terrifying UFO siege, including at least two abductions and one "baby presentation" aboard a UFO.

The beginning

It started with simple sightings. In 1982, Kelly Robinson visited Camp Julian, a church camp located in San Diego county, California.

She and several other camp members were outside at 11 p.m. at night when they saw something of such strangeness that they were scared back indoors. Kelly's description:

"A bunch of us saw it, and we were okay, you know. It's an outdoor church where you can be outside on benches and everything. And we were just lying down and talking and looking up into the sky. And then all of a sudden, we saw it, and we all got scared and went inside.

"It was jumping back and forth like an aircraft, but going superfast, back and forth. Like a small plane; that's how it looked. The only reason we didn't think it was a plane was because we saw it zigzagging and moving back and forth so fast. We just basically chickened out and went back to where we had to sleep. We didn't talk about it, you know."

Because of that incident, Kelly became intrigued and made a point to look for UFOs the next time she was up there. She would tell her friends, "Let's go look out there. Let's see if we can see any more UFOs." She remembers seeing them at least one more time, appearing in the same way as before. "They looked like planes," she said, "but were darting in triangular [formations]." She remembers at one time watching the darting lights for nearly an hour before they left. The older daughter, whom I shall call Jenny Robinson, also reported seeing UFOs over the San Fernando Valley, where the family resides. Twice, over a period of a few months in 1986, she and a few of her friends saw UFOs while driving.

Prelude to UFO siege

Again the sighting was simple, with no indication that the Robinson's experiences would escalate. Jenny described the sighting: "Yeah, [it was] something I thought was a UFO, maybe, up in the sky, something that didn't move like an airplane," she said.

"It was just like a light in the sky moving in all different directions, and was definitely moving too fast to be an airplane." Without warning, the aliens invaded the Robinson home, beginning a series of terrifying and dramatic encounters that centered around Kelly Robinson, who was the youngest daughter, in her 20s.

According to their memories of the events, it was after the five separate sightings of UFOs by fami-

ly members that Kelly was abducted and taken into a UFO, where she was cut on her arm and underwent an operation on her brain. She suffered three subsequent bedroom visitations—horrifying experiences that left her afraid to sleep in her own house. Later on, Mrs. Robinson was also abducted and presented with babies in a bizarre, highly technological nursery inside a UFO. She was told to love and care for these babies.

The Robinson's house is located in a densely populated suburb in Reseda, California. At the beginning of October, 1987, young Kelly remembers waking up to the ultimate horror of finding intruders in her bedroom. She describes these intruders as short, bald creatures, all identical, with huge heads, big, dark eyes and leathery pale skin. As she watched them standing around her, she noticed she was no longer in her own room but was in another, strange gray room with rounded walls. She remembers them looking at her and hearing them say in her head, "Don't worry. We won't hurt you."

"I just remember fighting with them, like they were trying to take me away," she said. ". . . they tried to do something with my brain, and I was fighting them all the way. They were pulling on me, [I screamed] 'let me go, let me go!' That morning I had a scratch on my arm and was really upset about it."

I asked Kelly about their skin, and she described it as tight and wrinkled. She said they informed her, " . . . We're not going to let you remember . . .' They'll say you'll not remember any of this.' And I'll say, 'Yes, I will.' "

The details in Kelly's encounter have been reported over and over again by other abductees—the bald heads, the dark eyes, pale skin, sameness of dress, the creatures' quickness of movement, their operation on the brain. Even the cut left on her arm, the grayness of the wall and curvature of the ceiling are common to other accounts of which Kelly knew nothing. The scar upset her deeply, and after telling her mother about the experience, asked her, "Do you think if you had checked my bed last night I would have been there?"

Neither of them could answer the question and were not sure if they wanted to. In her own words, Kelly found the experience "terrifying." She was deeply upset by the thought that her encounter was no dream, but really happened.

LIGHT SWARM—'Kelly' desperately fights off the brilliant darting lights which invaded her bedroom. Art by Kesara (Christine Dennett)

She had no idea the terrifying experiences would continue. Less than two weeks later, on Oct. 15, 1987, Kelly woke up to find strange specks of light darting about her room. Kelly said the lights attacked her, trying to put her asleep. She fought for consciousness, swatting at the strange lights as if they were fireflies. It was then she felt her mind being taken over, and what she assumed were the aliens began talking to her through telepathy.

"It's like, 'We're going to take your memory away,' and I'm all 'No, you're not, no you're not! I'm going to tell!,' " Kelly recalled in her first-hand description of the experience. "Then I start punching at the lights, grabbing at them and throwing them, and then fighting them like they're taking it [her memory of the event] out of my head . . . they were little specks of lighting, really small. They bounced all around."

". . .They were going right into my brain—that's how it feels. It's like you're really buzzed, and can't think or talk or anything. They were like draining my brain! When I was trying to stop and tell my parents, they said, 'Your parents wouldn't

understand . . . they especially had a fit about my dad . . . I couldn't even open my mouth. I mean, nothing came out when I talked. It's like they control so you don't say [anything]. It's bizarre."

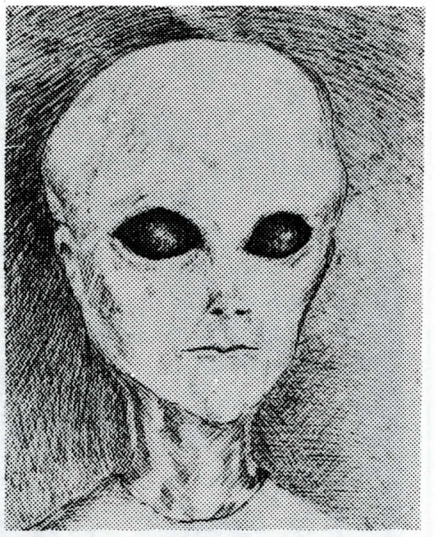
Her second encounter with the lights, though bizarre, is not unique. In the updated version of ***Tujunga Canyon Contacts***,[1] author D. Scott Rogo reports the case of Sammy Desmond. The number of similarities between his case and Kelly's are astounding. Both Kelly and Desmond live in Reseda; both claim to have been abducted aboard a UFO. Both had strange lights invade their homes—tiny lights which seemed to exert some sort of mind control over the victim. Both were left with physical scars. Many other cases also involve small balls of light. In the famous case of Betty Andreasson, the victim related an experience involving a little ball of light which descended upon her, knocking her down and commencing an apparent telepathic communication. [2]

Phone cue

One and a half months after her second encounter, on Dec. 2, 1987, Kelly woke up in the middle of the night to the sound of her phone ringing. It was a peculiar "ding," she said. She turned to look at the phone and saw that it was inside a paper bag, and she hadn't put it there. It had been on her bed table when she went to sleep. She felt a jolt of fear—how did the phone get in the bag? Kelly reported feeling the odd sensations coming on that signalled the experience. Again, she fought the creatures, she said. "They were asking me things about what we do, but you know, I can't specifically say," she said. ". . . So I grab them, and they'll try to get away, but I've got them . . . cussing them out . . . 'Just stay out of my life! You're driving me nuts! Or show yourself, don't be such cowards. Don't come to me in my dreams, come to me for real!' "

I made the terrible mistake of giving Kelly the book ***Communion,*** by Whitley Strieber. I thought that by knowing she's not alone, that others have had the same experience, she would feel comforted. She would know that she wasn't going crazy.

I was wrong. Very wrong. Kelly was beset with nightmares which



FROM MEMORY—Alien face based on witness report.

allowed her little rest. They were simply dreams—unlike her previous experiences—but still upsetting. The fear of having another encounter became debilitating. She didn't want to go home at night and would pray to God to "keep those damn weirdos away."

For nearly two months, Kelly had no more encounters. She was beginning to believe her terrible ordeal was over when, on the night of Jan. 25, 1988, the strange lights invaded her room again. Kelly woke up at 4:30 in the morning to the sound of her phone "dinging." She felt her mind being invaded and taken over by the lights, and they said to her, "We need to talk to you."

"It was like someone picked up the phone and put it down," she said. "[It made that sound] the Sunday night before." Again, Kelly fought with the invaders as they began to force her to come with them. "So I just started fighting them again, the little lights and all that. And I woke up, and it was almost like I was sitting as if I had dreamed I was fighting. I got really upset. I couldn't go back to sleep . . . it was like they were right in the house, because the fact the phone just dings like that every Sunday night, I think is kind of weird. All I know is that I don't want to have those dreams."

It is important to point out that although Kelly refers to the experiences as dreams, she carefully explained to me that she didn't think they were really dreams at all. She says her UFO experiences are "a little different, almost like they're happening when you're kind of semi-awake. It's like, 'Oh, here it goes!' and you want to wake up."

Having had so many encounters with the aliens, Kelly feels she has become somewhat familiar with their ways of thinking. As she says, "I think they're religious. They're not really out to hurt us. They're out to learn. But they're afraid for us to remember, because they're afraid we will tell people about them." I am virtually certain that Kelly's experiences happened in physical reality, as they closely match the details and patterns that have been established by other abduction researchers.

The mother's dream

A few months after Kelly's last encounter, her mother, Mrs. Robinson, had a "UFO dream" which completely changed my views about the depth and complexity of this UFO case. This is her description: "That strange room . . . This lady [was there]. And she was strange, too, because I never knew her. I didn't know who the heck she was. And there was a round, cylinder-type thing that turned around, around and around. There were all these babies in little compartments, like enclosures . . . almost the shape of a tree, a Christmas tree. It was narrow at the top and came down . . . and she'd push a button and it would move around so you would see all these babies. And she'd push another button and it would move around again.

"And these babies—there was something wrong with every one of them. Like one baby had two heads, which upset me because it was cute, but had two heads. And another baby had a big head and a little body. And there were Siamese twins in there, too. And this lady said to me, 'Pick a baby.'

"And I said to her, 'No, I don't want a baby. I have grown kids. I can't. What am I going to do with a baby? I don't know what to do with a little baby, and they need help.' And she says, 'We're giving them help.'. . .

"The room was strange. It was not like walls we see. The walls were kind of rounded. It was not like a regular room. It was sort of blue, blue like a pastel. And the container,

or the cylinder, or whatever the heck it was that these babies were in—they were like controlled compartments . . . You could see them and they looked fine. They looked healthy; they were squirming around and everything."

Mrs. Robinson further described the rooms as being very small and having no corners. She said it was well-lit and utterly "spotless and germ-free." Very much the description of a typical UFO room.

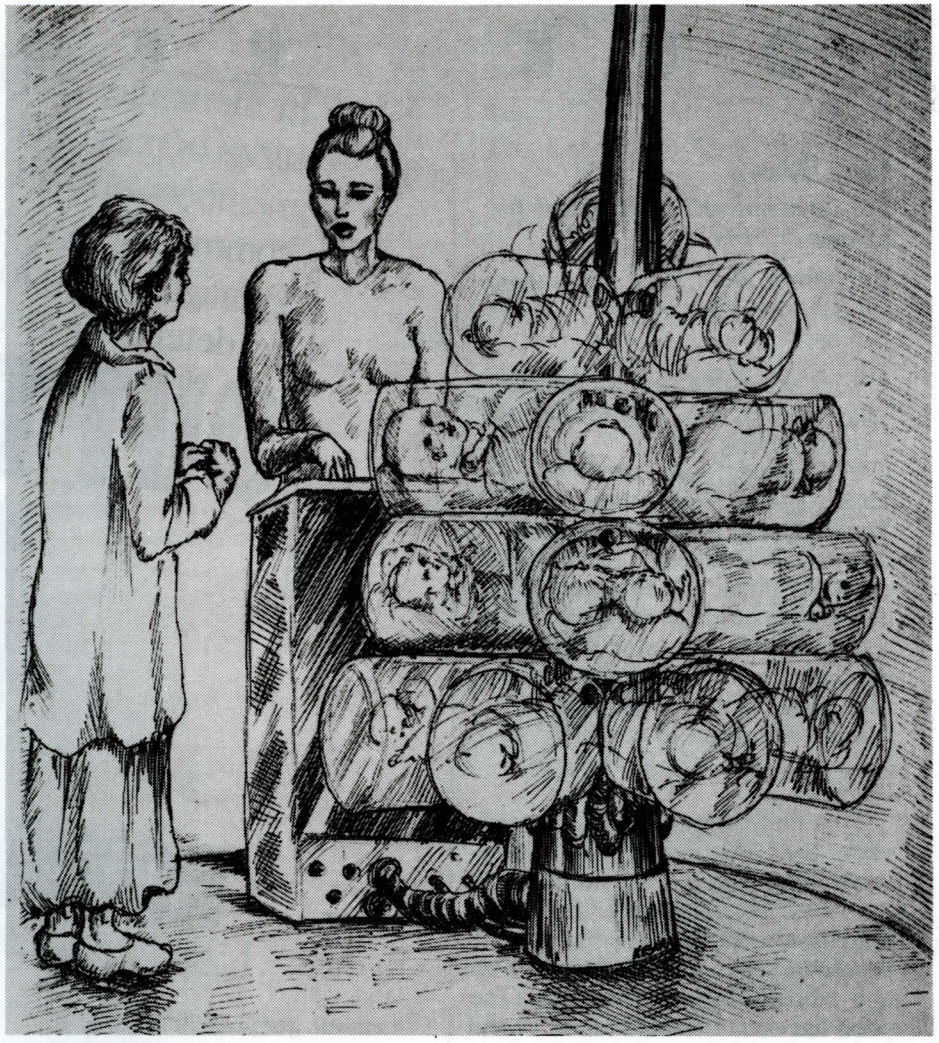
Baby love

Mrs. Robinson's "dream" had a central theme. It seemed the lady aboard the UFO (who looked very human) was quite adamant that Mrs. Robinson hold one of the babies and love it. "She wanted me to take one home to love," Mrs. Robinson tells us. "She [the UFO lady] says, 'They have everything, but they don't have love.' And I felt very sad. I told her, '. . . I would love to love them all. But I can't take them home. I have no place for them.' I felt almost guilty all day, like I'd left something behind. It didn't frighten me, though."

Mrs. Robinson does not recall entering or leaving the strange room with the babies, and she recalls her experiences as though it were a dream. However, detail after detail should raise alarm signals in the UFO investigator's mind—the smallness, roundness and well-lit atmosphere of the room, the pastel colors, the germ-free spotlessness, and most importantly the baby presentation and the dialogue between Mrs. Robinson and the strange lady. The entire scenario is nearly identical to cases outlined in Budd Hopkins' book, ***Intruders.***

All UFO activity has ceased since Mrs. Robinson's baby presentation, indicating that this UFO siege is over. Was the genetic experiment completed? It is interesting to note that what Mrs. Robinson saw indicates a devastating genetic failure. Something went wrong and all the babies came out deformed, and as the strange lady said, "It wasn't planned that way."

But the purpose of the baby presentations, as Hopkins has proposed and as Mrs. Robinson corroborates, seems to be to study the interaction between the abductee and the infants, as if the aliens are studying maternal affection. Or perhaps they are trying to provide love for the babies, a love they are unable to provide. But this doesn't necessarily explain the purpose of the babies.



THE BABY TREE—In a disturbing 'dream,' Mrs. Robinson was told that strange, seemingly deformed infants had everything they needed but love. Art by Kesara (Christine Dennett)

Questions remain

The UFO siege upon the Robinson family is now over. But how many families are under a similar siege? How many of them are experiencing the horror and terror of a UFO invasion? How many of them are carrying the emotional and physical scars that the experience leaves? How many are holding these deepest and darkest of secrets?

Nobody knows the answers to these questions for sure. Where UFOs used to be thought of as rare events, many UFO investigators are reversing their opinions. Although society and the media still cling to their skepticism—a mere piece of attitudinal wreckage in a raging storm—the evidence is mounting and the reality of UFOs is becoming increasingly obvious.

The fact of the matter is, people are being abducted and experimented upon. The question is not, "Is this really happening?" To UFO abductees and many others, the truth is all too evident. The question now is, "What can we do about it?"

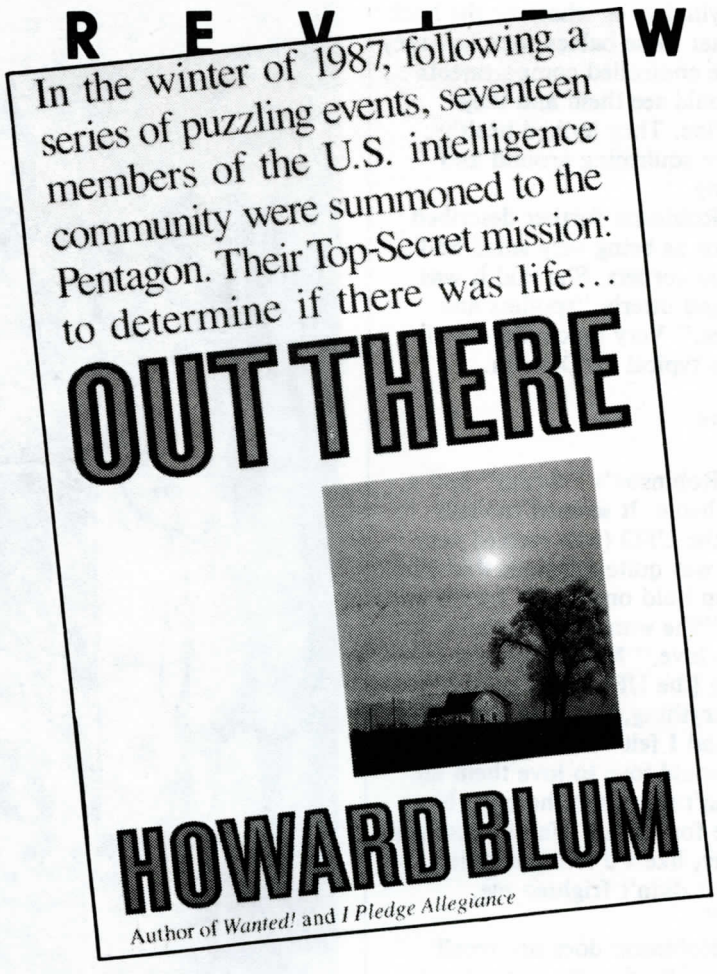
NOTES

1. Ann Druffel and D. Scott Rogo, ***The Tujunga Canyon Contacts.*** New York: New American Library, 1988. Pp. 308-314.
2. Raymond E. Fowler, ***The Andreasson Affair: Phase Two.*** Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1982. Pp. 46-56.

Out There

The Government's Secret Quest for Extraterrestrials

By Howard Blum. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1990. 300 pp.


In the winter of 1987, following a series of puzzling events, seventeen members of the U.S. intelligence community were summoned to the Pentagon. Their Top-Secret mission: to determine if there was life...
OUT THERE
HOWARD BLUM
Author of Wanted! and I Pledge Allegiance

What most UFO buffs might have long imagined as a huge media godsend for ufology has finally—finally!—appeared. A former award-winning *New York Times* reporter made his mind up that there was indeed a real story to this UFO thing, and so proceeded to develop his inside government sources and write a book. Before the ink was dry on the first press run of ***Out There***, author Howard Blum was already slated to appear on 60 Minutes and the Oprah Winfrey Show.

That the government is concerned about the UFO phenomenon is not news. That there's a big story here is not news. What is news is that Blum may have scratched the collective psyche of some MJ-12-like underlings and exposed them to the world. (The press has already talked about "hand wringing" in Washington circles because of this book.)

While reading Blum's book, we could not help being amazed, as well as wondering, what if any of his revelations were contrived by his "agents?" Flashbacks of the MJ-12 debacle, promises made and never kept, and people ultimately suffering from the counterintelligence disinformation campaign kept arising. The men in this newly-revealed government UFO investigation appear long on military/intelligence background, but short on UFO answers. The book is based on interviews with over 200 people, and amply insinuates that a breakthrough may be at hand. Might there be a public furor in the making? Maybe, and all because Blum literally traced the erratic footsteps of the Defense Intelligence Agency's 3-year-old UFO Working Group, and adroitly packaged that trail in an expertly written, nearly novelistic book that manages to "get inside the heads" of participants and supporting players in this alleged official UFO program. The author goes out of his way to explain his use of this omniscient, docu-drama style and how he determined the accuracy of re-creating events he obviously couldn't have witnessed firsthand.

Blum came to this inevitable literary coup with stellar credentials. Besides having been nominated for a Pulitzer for series he did with the *Times*, the spy-ferreting reporter has documented America's espionage story of the last decade—that of John Walker and his family of spies, responsible for selling the Soviets precious defense material—in ***I Pledge Allegiance,*** subtitled "The True Story of the Walkers: An American Spy Family." Appropriately, ***Out There's*** prologue is entitled "A Spy's Story."

That may be a veiled caveat to the casual reader whose familiarity with UFOs begins and ends with Spielberg movies and the tabloid press. A shadowy but literarily attractive character who beckons more serious attention than, say, a flying saucer contactee, a spy is nonetheless a spy and may have a hidden agenda when he drops ufological bait into the lap of a respected news reporter with Blum's background. How much of what Blum was offered is the real story? Even he admits he can't be absolutely sure. He did, however, get close enough for the NSA to begin a search for the purported "whistleblower" with the intention of beginning criminal prosecution.

This unnamed NSA official started off by wanting to check Blum's facts regarding the Walker story. We read the NSA man's disgruntled comment, "Walker told us stealing secrets from this country is as easy as shoplifting from K-Mart. And I'll be damned if the bastard isn't right.' " That got Blum's attention. He made a date with the spy and the next thing you know Blum was hearing about the really "out there" talk around the NSA ". . . Weird stuff. UFOs," the source murmured. Only marginally skeptical and resistant, Blum eventually does follow up.

It's a two-year trek into the government's UFO involvement, ala Col. Harold Phillips and the DIA's UFO Working Group. We skip-hop

from NORAD to the Mojave Desert to Elmwood, Wisconsin, close to the land where someday there may be the hoped-for UFO Site Center, and where festive, small-townish "UFO Days," replete with softball games and flying saucer pizza, make one forget more serious situations. Such as the Elmwood patrol officer whose traumatic UFO encounter may have led to his premature death.

Out There could be groundbreaking—up to a point. An undercurrent of tension and significance is obvious, but Blum is not taken far enough into the inside. After reading ***Out There,*** however, you will know Elmwood and the radio-wave certainties of SETI scientists with a certain warming intimacy. But you won't know what to make of the UFO Working Group! Blum devotes an unusually large percentage of the book on SETI and Elmwood—too much to make this the stunning reportorial account the ufological crowd needs and desires. There are more questions aksed in this book than are ever answered. When Blum was asked (see interview, p. 12) whether the UFO Working Group had expressed interest in mutilations, he only said that they had sent field representatives out on various cases. But no mention at all in the book. When asked if they accepted the reality of abduction victims, Blum AND the Working Group were thunderingly silent. We read lots about the group's game plan, but little of their overall intelligence plan. National security, and all . . . But that's not enough reason to stop and complain, since Blum possesses enviable skills in language portraiture and delivering the set-up for a next installment.

Considering the way a compartmentalized inner government does things, the UFO Working Group may be a dilatory public relations gesture dressed up as an elite collective, whose real job is insulating the truth. Blum suspects as much himself, and considering the winding roads and dead ends he was taken to along his journey, and his informants' obsessive penchant for secrecy, can be forgiven for taking us into red-herring land here and there.

Besides, it's damn fun. (Why get into UFOs unless you can have fun??) MJ-12 and its cast of characters deliver some of the most satisfying "ahas!" Bill Moore and Phil Klass are squarely sized up; Blum takes a writer's joy in rendering blow-by-blow passages describing their antagonistic relationship. Looks like he may have quickly seen through the exaggerated self-importance overlaying their MJ-12 detective game, but never lost sight of what the game may mean.

Face it, everyone's in pursuit of the ultimate UFO secret.

What sloggy layers to the answer lie ahead? Blum is disarmingly frank in relating the swamps and pitfalls in dealing with spies. He doesn't quite come out and say that he may be being strung along, but those readers familiar with the way Moore and others have been manipulated will recognize some of the ways Blum's sources keep him in line. There just may be no other way.

So even with the instincts of a former *New York Times* reporter at work, good answers still elude us. Blum does leave the impression that he may be working on ***Out There,*** Part Two, and if this is the case—fine. However, what do we do in the meantime? The book will be a crucial read for all interested in the UFO question mark, and even those who aren't, if only because of the gentleman who wrote it. The pleasure in Blum's endeavor, more than anything, results from his sure sense of professionalism and fine narrative writing. But, like the author, we are fairly convinced that the only way the UFO question will ever be answered to the satisfaction of the people who pay the bills—"We, The People . . ."—is when Congress takes a real hard and close look at the question. Not like the UFO hearings of the '60s, but perhaps with the passion of a Watergate or Iran-Contra hearing. Is anyone in Congress interested? Blum says yes . . . perhaps time will tell.

The passion of the UFO/ET quest demands vindication. In the book's closing pages, Blum eloquently reiterates the impetus of consciousness which motivates us; we are the sometime UFO nuts bent on a dreamer's outsized, romantic vision but left with little in the way of facts. But that doesn't stop the search, nor still the inner conviction that this magnificent quest, without question, tops them all.

—Vicki Cooper and Don Ecker

THE VERDICT IS IN!

Dear Friend,

More than 15 years ago, I was the editor of **Caveat Emptor,** a controversial, trailblazing UFO and New Age magazine. Like other publications of the period, it finally published its last edition and disappeared from the scene.

Then, in July, 1988, I had a crazy idea. I decided the time was at last right to bring back **Caveat Emptor.**

With the decision to revive the magazine came a lot of uncertainty. **Caveat Emptor** occupied a distinct and special place in the minds and hearts of our readers. I remember how some of them (perhaps you, if you were one of our original subscribers) would tell me how the magazine would transport them away from the hum-drum daily routine and into a marvelous world of excitement and wonder.

I didn't know if I could re-create that kind of feeling on the part of my readers. I didn't know if I could feel it myself anymore.

A few months later and the hard work of putting out that first issue was over. I was truly amazed that anyone remembered us at all. The avalanche of letters from my new, loyal readers just knocked me out!

Here are just a few of them:

"I was particularly impressed with the *quality* of the writing. I would like to see your magazine succeed. There is a need for a...magazine that does not accept every story that comes down the pike."
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"Welcome back into the UFO world. I believe I have copies of all previous **Caveat Emptors** in my files. You were sorely missed."
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Lincolnton, NC

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J.M.
Oak Park, MI

"Welcome back! Delighted to see **CE** once again. It's needed more than ever!"
J.R.
London, England

"Thank God there are people like you putting sanity into UFO magazines."
L.V.
Ivyland, PA

These letters speak for themselves. The only things I'd like to add are that many of our original writers have returned with new perspectives, and with bold, new findings about the strange and unknown. The UFO field is indeed changing, and **Caveat Emptor** is the magazine that will help pave the way for that change.

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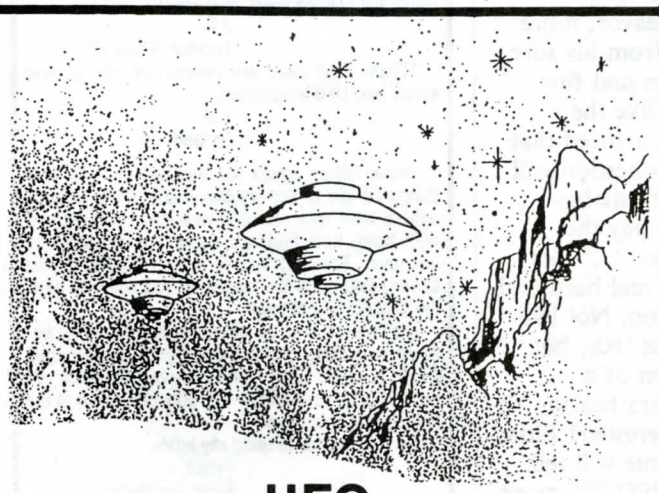

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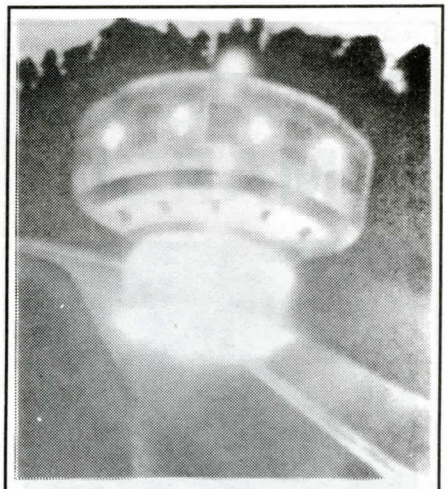

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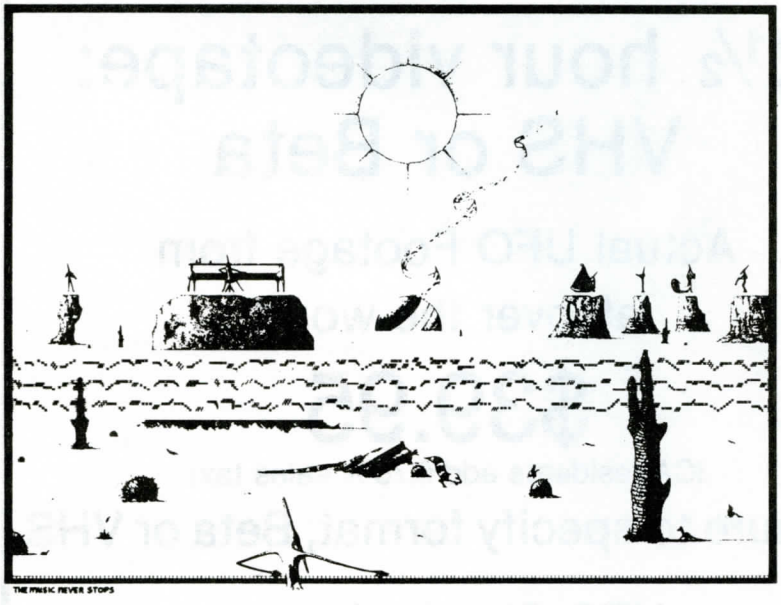

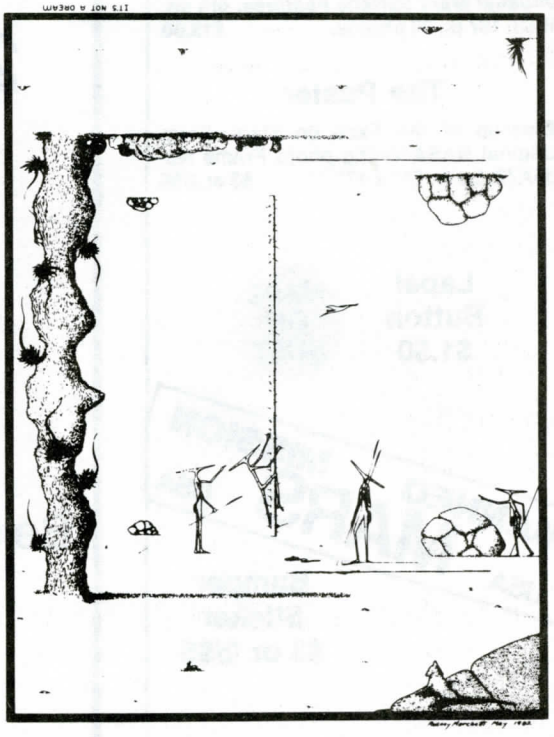

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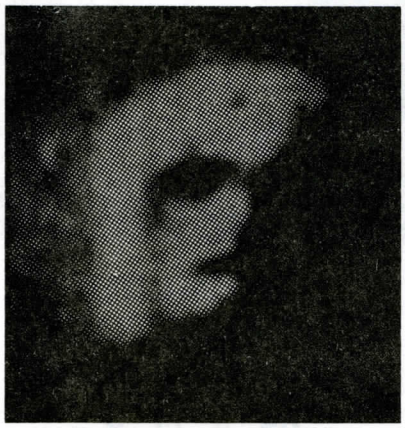

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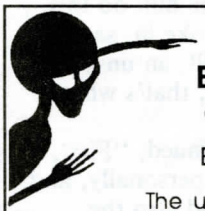

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Continued from p. 18

are four types, and four only. . . one group (is) very human looking; as a matter of fact they are starring on television in "Alien Nation," the Orange . . ."

According to the casting director of Alien Nation, Irene Kagan, these remarks of Cooper's are totally false. "I can assure you that all the 'alien' actors on the show are human," she said. "I hired them."

On a recent broadcast of the "Billy Goodman Happening" on KVEG from Las Vegas, researcher Lars Hansson (see article, p. 17) debated Cooper on the air and pointed out some of the inconsistencies that Cooper has espoused. Hansson brought up the fact that at one time Cooper himself gave Bob Lazar his "stamp of approval." Cooper vehemently denied ever having endorsed Lazar's authenticity.

UFO has been following the Lazar story since it broke upon the UFO scene. Cooper's claim that he never gave Lazar his support or claims of legitimacy is untrue. On November 21, 1989, Bob Lazar was a guest on the Billy Goodman Happening, and during the audience call-in phase of the show, Cooper phoned in and said the following over the air: "I'd like to clear up a couple of misunderstandings here. Number 1, I would really like to thank Bob Lazar for coming forward. I have been talking to him for the last year, along with John Lear, we have met in groups and privately. The man (Lazar) is a wealth of information. I am tickled pink that he has finally decided to come forward and use his real name, because it helps all of us. . . the reason he has gotten into this predicament is because he is a patriot. He cares about this country and that is what made him do this. . ." Goodman then broke in, saying, "That's beautiful, Bill, an unsolicited testimonial, basically, that's what it comes down to."

Then Cooper continued, "First, I'd like to say that I personally, and also Tony Pelham and also the Channel 8 news staff—George Knapp and several other people, John Lear—we have all investigated this man's background thoroughly because we did not want to be sucked into a trap by the government. And I can tell you that he is who he says he is. He has worked at Los Alamos. He is a physicist, he is a theoretical physicist. He has worked at Area S-4 in Groom Lake. We have verified all of this—not just me but several other people, and I have verified it by two different sources of mine who are in the government. One is at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories . . . We are always on the lookout for somebody trying to trap us and something that we can be discredited by. We have to do that [background research] to protect our own credibility." Cooper has subsequently attacked Lazar with claims that he knew all along that Lazar was fraudulent. In his CAJI Newsletter, he now presents a completely different tone than before, and writes of "Lazar, the so-called physicist who claims to have seen flying saucers. . .

Note: The Whistleblowers is an ongoing investigative series by ***UFO*** *Magazine, which possesses taped or written records of the material used in articles. Cooper continues to call attention to the so-called secret government. But numerous contradictions, inaccuracies, lies and inconsistencies (other than those covered in these articles) exist in the information that Cooper has purveyed and continues to purvey. It should be emphasized that several other individuals on the UFO circuit will be the subjects of upcoming articles in this series.*

●

There you have it. Don Ecker's article, documentary reports researched and produced by George Knapp of KLAS-TV and what Cooper has published in his CAJI newsletter are part of a growing information base which should demonstrate why we have chosen not to give space to the often false and specious claims that Cooper purveys.

It is not our intention to single out individuals and "pick on" them; it's simply very important that the truth or the closest thing to it be established. A close reading of our whistleblowers series, as it progresses, will demonstrate that there are people in this field who have set themselves up for examination and whose claims of truth are, at best, cleverly-mouthed chunks of propaganda; some if not most will be found wanting. Milton William Cooper has threatened, lied about

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and attacked a number of people in the UFO field (I'm included, as is Don Ecker). Along with slander and lying, he has a clear history of contradicting himself, backtracking when caught in those contradictions and then attempting to patch up his story with a turnaround position based on sudden new claims that, true to style, cannot be checked out.

A Bill Cooper could not maintain a foothold in any other field. Such a bullying personality would have been "run out of town" long ago. But the fact that this man and others like him still can command some audience and are seen as having some veracity and authority denotes a sore lack of discrimination on the part of many in the UFO arena, if not outright foolishness.

But it should be likewise emphasized that this syndrome also testifies to our collective frustration with the lies and secret machinations of some powerful persons in the U.S. government, cultivating many people's willingness to listen and follow just about anyone who purports to be defending the Constitution and who vocally demands accountability from the very government officials in whom we should be able to place our trust.

It's so very important: Dedication to the absolute truth, to the finer points of democracy, when exercised without caution and discernment, plays right into the hands of those who would short-circuit those very precious qualities we hold dear. "Users" of all political persuasions will exploit the emotional fervor of the crowd to further their own selfish and inhumane ends. (Some names to remember: Adolf Hitler. Joseph Goebbels. Joseph Stalin. Joe McCarthy.)

It's imperative that we—and I include everyone who shares the vision of ***UFO*** Magazine—short-circuit such perniciousness at its very core, striking at the heart of demagoguery with persistent courage and honesty.

Only personal commitment to humane and truthful ideals, and the willingness to expose the truth, can successfully overcome The Big Lie. ***UFO*** Magazine honors just such a commitment. —***Vicki Cooper***

We offer the opportunity for Cooper to respond to any charges made in this magazine.

Closer Look

Continued from p. 17

never authorized distribution of the videotape to anyone.

Although I have never been convinced that the driver fired a weapon, and am certainly not convinced now, I had met in early 1988 at length with two other researchers who had spent years attempting to prove this theory, and it seemed that a compelling case existed to pursue an intensive investigation to confirm or disprove it. In the course of transferring the original 8mm film to video, it was arbitrarily decided to tone down the color during the first transfer, in order to heighten the contrast of reflective surfaces in the film, not in an attempt to deceive anyone.

The resulting tape was never intended as a "final product" or proof of anything, but simply as a spur to other researchers and/or financial backers to initiate a complete and thorough investigation of this "angle." The tape was made only as a research aid, an admittedly rushed and crude one, and was not to be sold or distributed to anyone. The most immediate and obvious problem with using it as proof is that there is no apparent muzzle blast or recoil from the so-called weapon, along with many other problems.

I first met American POW-hunter Lt. Col. Bo Gritz in mid-May 1988, and Captain John Lear a few weeks later, and I showed them the tape in hopes of enlisting their interest and support in my investigative effort. Although Lear felt that there may have been some connection between JFK's murder and his reputed determination to expose the UFO coverup to the public, this has never been even remotely substantiated. If anything, I believe the only aliens Kennedy was intent on exposing were the Nazis and fascists who had come to saturate the highest levels of the U.S. intelligence community, aerospace and defense industries. Unfortunately, Lear sent a copy of the tape to Bill Cooper along with his other research material, mistakenly believing he was a serious researcher.

Since that time, Cooper has shown the tape to hundreds of people and sold copies (under his own label) around the world, according to his distributor, Stan Barrington of Lancaster, CA. In early November 1989 and again in January 1990, I ordered Cooper to cease and desist, informing him that all the evidence I've gathered thus far disproves the "Greer Theory." He refused, claiming he saw 'all the proof' he needed in the so-called "Navy briefing papers" and that he would continue to show and sell it whether I approved or not. When I insisted that he remove my narration, since I did not want to be responsible for indirectly misleading the general public, he refused to do that also—although it was removed in the tape he showed at Hollywood High immediately after our talk. He claims now to have made his own "clearer" version.

On KVEG and KFI Radio recently, Cooper has claimed: 1) that I gave him a copy of the Kennedy tape and authorized him to use it; 2) that I made the tape for Lt. Col. Bo Gritz and authorized him to use it; 3) that I received my copy of the film from Robert Groden (one of the premier Kennedy researchers, a specialist on the Zapruder film and author of two best-selling books on the JFK assassination) and that Groden had worked for Time-Life and lied to the Senate Select Committee about Greer's role in the assassination.

I had not met or spoken to Bo Gritz and had never even heard of John Lear when I made the Kennedy videotape, and I did not authorize either gentleman to distribute it to anyone. Groden, who has labored tirelessly for more than two decades to expose Kennedy's killers, told me, "I would have been the first to charge Greer with shooting Kennedy *if it was true* . My copy of the film was taken directly from the original Zapruder print and my first effort was to zero in on the actions of agents Greer and Kellerman, only to discover that, while he turned around to look back at Kennedy TWICE, and stepped on the brakes instead of immediately accelerating, GREER'S HANDS NEVER LEFT THE STEERING WHEEL. The reflection on the film is the top of Kellerman's head, and is not from a weapon of any kind.

"The Senate Select Committee never called me to testify, but I spared no effort to influence them to call Greer for additional questioning. I have never worked for Time-Life in any capacity whatsoever."—***Lars C. Hansson***

Anyone who would like the entire story can contact me at:
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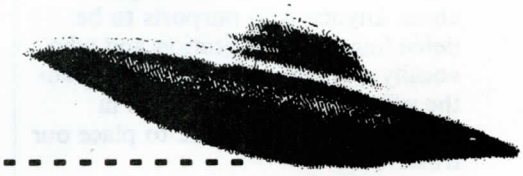

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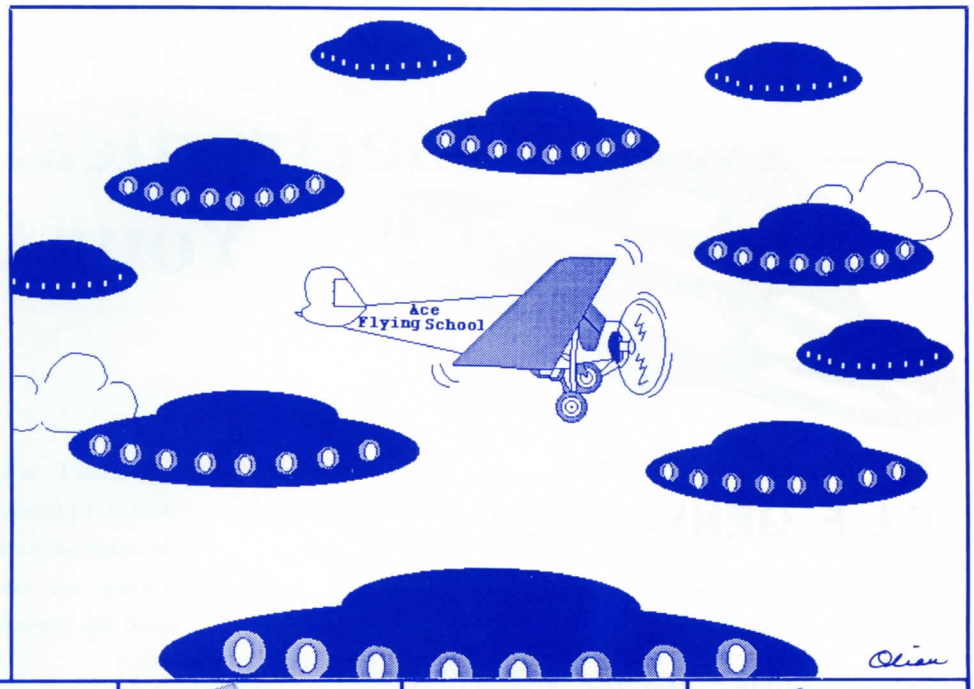

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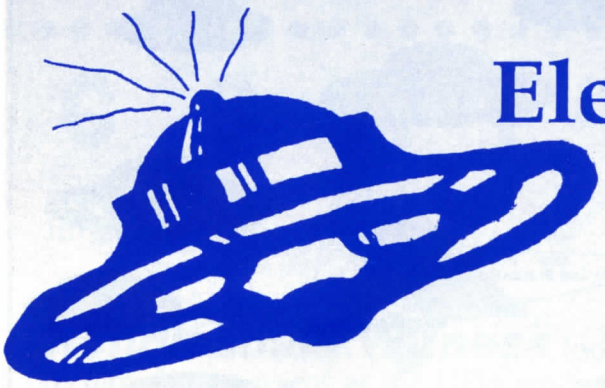

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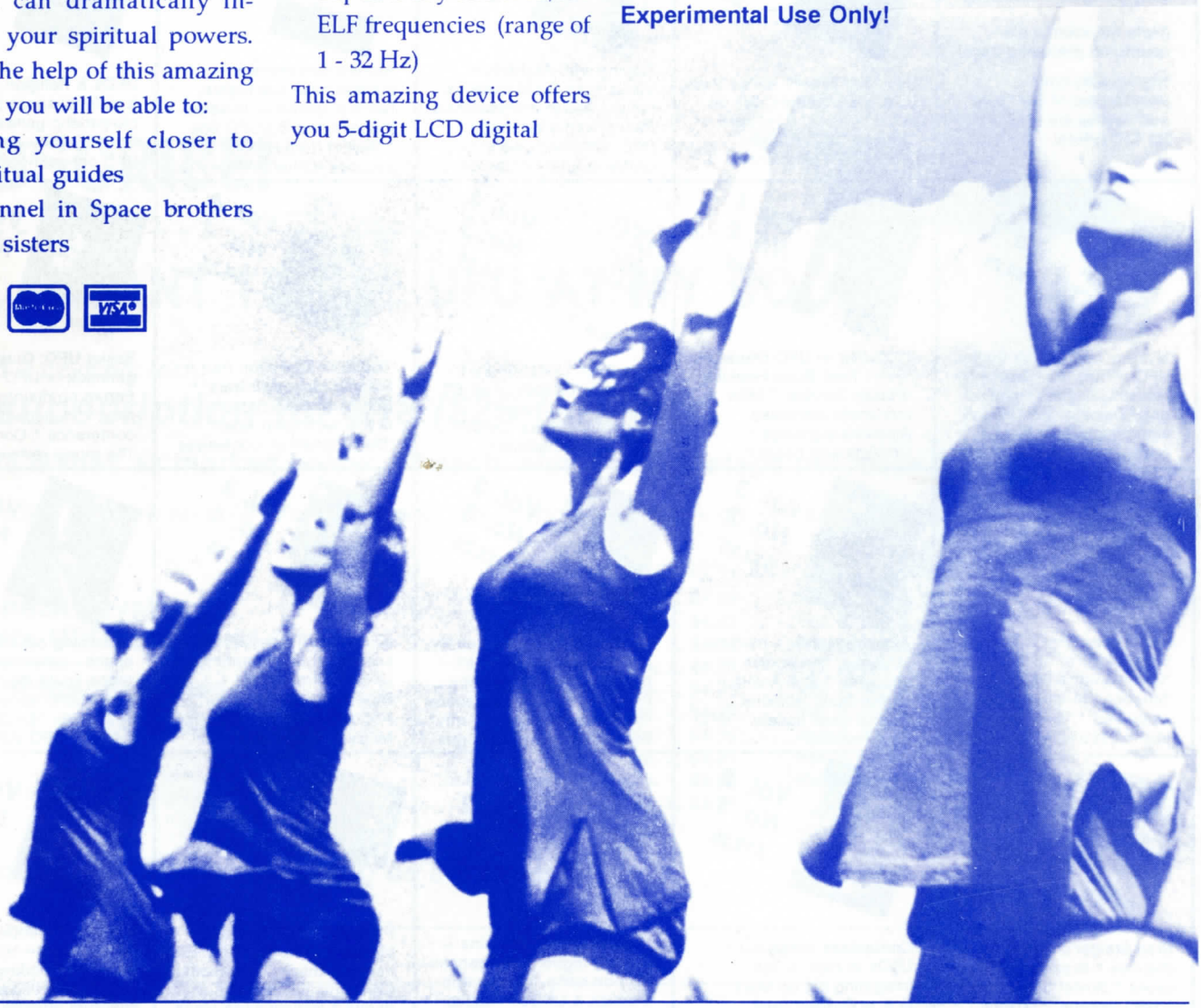

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